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Inquiry Confirms Guerrillas Murdered

An Israeli military inquiry into the deaths of two Gaza youths, Majdi Abu Jame' and Subhi Abu Jame', who were involved in the hijacking of an Israeli bus April 12, concluded that the commandos have been beaten to death after capture by Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli government had been under pressure to make an official inquiry when foreign journalists contradicted the army's version of the hijacking aftermath. The army insisted that two commandos were shot dead when soldiers stormed the bus and two died later of wounds received during the armed takeover. However, eyewitness reports and Israeli press photographers revealed that two of the youths had been captured alive.

In a top secret report made to the Israeli defence ministry May 20 and released in censored form May 28, the two-member Zorea Commission stated that blows were meant to stun both Palestinians immediately after soldiers stormed the bus and had been an 'operational necessity'. It went on to state that beating with a 'blunt instrument' presumably gun-butts, on the head and body resumed after at least one of the youths was led away for interrogation. Autopsies ordered several weeks after revealed that both died of fractured skulls.

The commission recommended that the Israeli attorney-general investigate the soldiers responsible for possible 'illegal behavior' in the incident. It hinted that some officers might be guilty of omission in not issuing specific orders about how to treat captured prisoners. The defence establishment praised the report and declared that any wrong-doing was on an individual level. A photograph of defence minister Moshe Arens standing next to security forces as they led an obviously uninjured commando away from the scene was reproduced in major local papers early this week. Over the past month Arens made subsequent statements that all four men died in the storming operation, that two died in hospital of wounds, that he was not at the scene, and this week, that he was present but did not notice the condition of the commandos.

Senior Israeli army officers

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3 Israeli Dead, 4 Wounded in S. Lebanon

At least three Israeli soldiers were killed and four others wounded in resistance attacks on the Israeli occupation army in south Lebanon last week. Israeli officials threatened retaliation.

The largest attack of the week occurred on Saturday night, May 26, when two jeeps carrying seven soldiers were ambushed near the village of Kamed al-Louz, in the eastern sector. An Israeli military spokesman said the attackers fired small arms and rocket-Propelled Grenades scoring direct hits on the two vehicles. Two sergeants and a private were killed on the spot. Two other soldiers were wounded, and the remaining two soldiers escaped unharmed, according to the military spokesman.

Israeli reinforcements arrived on the scene to evacuate the casualties. The soldiers searched the area of the attack, but did not find the attacker.

The Jerusalem Post quoted unnamed senior military sources as saying that Israel will continue its policy of preemptive strikes against commando targets in the eastern sector of Lebanon.

Two days earlier, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens announced that Israel would continue to follow strict security measures in South Lebanon until military attacks cease.

Speaking at the Engineers Club in Tel Aviv, Arens said that the crossing points on the Awali River, which now separates south Lebanon will continue to be closed to Lebanese civilians.

In other attacks in the week, one Israeli soldier was wounded, May 25, when a remote-controlled bomb was detonated under the vehicle he was riding in near Burj al-Shamali refugee camp, east of Tyre. Israeli troops searched the area of the attack and found the detonation device in a near by citrus orchard *The Jerusalem Post* said.

Another soldier was wounded, May 28, by light arms fire directed at an Israeli convoy near Nabatiyeh. An Israeli military spokesman said the fire came from a speeding car, as the convoy passed near the village of al-Dawar, east of Nabatiyeh. Israeli troops chased the car, which managed to escape.

Among other attacks, rockets were fired at an Israeli position in the Jib Jnin area, eastern Lebanon, May 24. Israeli military sources claimed there were no casualties.

Last week, two Katyusha rockets were fired towards an Israeli position in Baalul also in the eastern sector. The military spokesman claimed then that there were no casualties.

Nazareth Festival Marks PLO's 20th Birthday

The 20th anniversary of the establishment of the PLO was celebrated at Beit al-Sadakka in Nazareth May 26 by a festival entitled "The Palestinian Cultural Festival." The one-day festival, sponsored by *Al Jadid* literary magazine, included a symposium, a film and theatre show and a programme of entertainment. Palestinian journalists, poets, intellectuals and writers from the Galilee, Haifa, Acre, the Triangle, the Golan Heights and the West Bank took part.

Salman Natour, managing editor of Haifa-based *Al Jadid* mazagine, told *Al Fajr* that the festival is a significant cultural event for Palestinian thinkers and writers. Its aim is to escalate their nationalist activities and enhance their determination to serve the Palestinian cause.

Afif Salem, a Nazareth journalist, called for the forming of an association for writers to continue their cultural life in the occupied territories. "Cultural activity is part of our daily life," he said. Emil Habibi, editor-in-chief of *Al Ittihad* newspaper, surveyed the Palestinian literary movement since 1936. Habibi told the audience that UNESCO is preparing a study of Palestinian literature and heritage.

Three symposia were held during the festival on culture, prose and poetry.

Seven Palestinian singers sang national songs to entertain the audience. The Arabian Popular *Dabkeh* Troupe performed scenes of a play entitled *The Quagmire*. The festival ended with a film entitled *The Story of a Town on the Beach*. The film is directed by Ali Nasser and all the actors are Palestinians. The film was produced by the Popular Art Institute in Haifa.

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Inquiry

told a Hebrew daily that the *Shin-Bet*, general security forces, was solely responsible for the deaths since the men 'were still fit enough to answer difficult questions' when the army turned them over for investigation.

Bassam Abu Sharif, spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which had claimed responsibility for the bus hijacking, issued a statement from Damascus May 27, accusing Israeli Chief-of-Staff, Moshe Levy, of giving direct orders that the commandos be killed.

Arens called for a military inquiry only after the foreign press leaked word that one of the hijackers had been led away from the bus alive. Before that the government had tried to keep the fate of the two prisoners a secret. Photographs of the scene were banned by military censors. News reports about the hijacking aftermath were censored out of all newspapers and even a report about the brief nighttime burrial of the four was forbidden to be published. Intelligence men interrogated *The New York Times* correspondent who had questioned the governments' initial announcement. An Israeli newspaper was punitively closed down for four days only for publishing the news item that Arens was setting up an official inquiry.

The part of the Zorea report released by the defence ministry did not describe the exact manner or time of death of either youth nor disclosed the names or ranks of those responsible. The ministry said legal proceedings would begin once the soldiers are identified.The Zorea Commission report said that the commandos, Subhi Abu Jame' and Majdi Abu Jame' were killed sometime after their removal from the bus to a nearby field, where they were to be interrogated.

The Zorea report gave no explanation for why the bodies of the four commandos, according to their families, had vertical incisions on their torsos and had their eyes gouged out.

Meir Zorea is a member of the extreme right-wing Tzomet movement led by former Israeli chief of staff Rafael Eitan.

Report of the Zorea Inquiry Commission

The Israeli Defence Ministry issued the following statement, May 28, on the Zorea Commission report. The report itself is classified. According to the ministry, this statement contains the main findings cleared for publication:

...5. From the testimony heard by the Commission, it has been determined that during the operation to retake the bus, the two captured terrorists were dealt severe blows to the head and body, delivered by weapons, in order to stun them and prevent any possibility of (their) detonating the bomb that was on the bus at the time. The commission has determined that these blows were an operational necessity, designed to prevent possible danger to human life.

6. Immediately after the two terrorists had been stunned, they were taken off the bus and escorted by security force personnel to an adjacent field for preliminary interrogation (intended to provide) immediate clarification of the possible presence of booby-traps on the bus and of additional terrorists who might present immediate danger.

7. During the stage following their removal from the bus, the two terrorists were dealt severe blows by men on the scene.

8. One of the terrorists died of a skull fracture resulting from a blow dealt to the back of his head by a blunt instrument, during the time between his removal from the bus, at the earliest, and his evacuation from the site, at the latest. The second terrorist died of a skull fracture resulting from a blow to the back of his head dealt by a blunt instrument in the time between the retaking of the bus by the strike force and before his evacuation from the site, at the latest....

...14. The Minister of Defence regards with the utmost gravity, and strongly condemns the behaviour that led to the deaths of the two terrorists captured on the bus, behaviour that is in clear contradiction to the basic rules and norms incumbent on all, and especially on the security forces. Not even the special circumstances of this case justify such behaviour. Therefore, legal action will be taken, in accordance with the evidence emerging in the investigation, against those suspected of illegal acts or behaviour. Furthermore, all possible steps will be taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of such an incident. (Reprint from Jerusalem Post, May 29, 1984.)

Comments on the Report

The Zorea Commission report into how two commandos involved in the Asqalan bus hijacking met their deaths surprised the Israeli defence establishment by its frank admission that the two had been bludgeoned to death after capture. Palestinian observers were not surprised and called the report 'nothing unusual' and a 'partial truth.' A PLO spokesperson in Tunis said: "During the long confrontation between the Palestinian revolution and Israel, Israel's POWs enjoyed proper and humane treatment from our side and were always considered prisoners of war by us. Now we see the treatment from the other side is completely different."

In Damascus, a spokesperson for the PFLP, which claimed responsibility for the bus operation, said that the killing of the two commandos had been on order of Israeli chief of staff Moshe Levy. The Haifa-based *Al Ittihad*, the daily of the Israeli Communist Party, demanded the resignation of Levy and Defence Minister Arens and called the murders "a racist crime." Three Palestinian lawyers contacted by *Al Fajr* saw nothing unusual in the events of the case. Said a Galilee lawyer, "We see this harsh treatment of Palestinians daily for much less serious charges." Several months ago, two of his clients were arrested from their home in Kalandia refugee camp near Jerusalem. One was severely beaten on the head with a gun butt. The arresting soldier told the court ,the young man hit his head on a table. He was convicted only of resisting arrest.

Former High Court Justice Haim Cohen added his voice to the call for punishment within government circles when he noted that in Britain, in a similar case, the responsible minister would have resigned.

Attorney Felicia Langer, who is representing the families of the two murdered commandos, demanded that the Zorea Commission's documents be turned over to the families, as is "their right to know," so they can pursue the case within the law. Langer criticised the fact that the inquiry committee came from within the defence establishment, and therefore could not be impartial.

Most of the comments in the Israeli and US press praised the commission as an example of Israeli democracy at work. There was considerable sympathy expressed publicly for the security forces responsible for the murders and a noticeable lack of condemnation of the incident. Although Israeli general elections are less than two months away, the opposition Labour Alignment apparently decided not to use the issue in campaigning and showed no criticisms of the government's handling of the problem.

In a poll conducted by *Hadashot*, 84 percent of those questioned said they agreed with the killing of the two captured.

PNF Tells Palestinians: 'Tighten Your Belts'

The Palestine National Fund ended a two-day session May 27 in Amman with a recommendation to increase funding for the families of martyrs and detained people.

The fund, which is headed by PLO executive member Hanna Nasser, also discussed ways of covering the costs of the distribution of the PLO's armed forces in the various Arab countries. Nasser said the fund is in dire need of financing and called on Palestinians "to tighten their belts."

PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, who arrived in Amman for a short visit May 26, attended part of the meetings.

Observers saw in the convening of the National Fund a positive sign towards unity between the various Palestinian factions. The fund's board had not met since the the rift between Syria and Fatah and the intra-Palestinian fighting last year.

Left: Frame 30A, shot by Alex Liebeck, shows Arens facing the camera (a soldier's face is censored). Right: Frame 31A, immediately following, shows the captured commando being led away alive.

Fara'a Prisoners Attempt Suicide to Escape Torture

Fara'a political prisoners who attempted suicide last week disclosed recently that their attempt came in an effort to escape the torture that they were subject to by prison interrogators.

Qais Anwar Awayis and Jamal Akoubeh, both from Nablus, and Nasser Ahmad and Ahmad Sharqawi, both from Jenin, tried to kill themselves recently by swallowing sharp material objects. This action was taken to escape further torture by Israeli interrogators who were attempting to obtain information from the four men about their alleged participation in public demonstrations.

Awayis was arrested on April 28 on the pretext of participating in demonstrations. It is reported that interrogators beat him, concentrating on his leg, which was wounded by gunshot during a demonstration a few months ago. The youth is reportedly still suffering from the wound.

The four were visited last week by Jerusalem lawyer Jawad Boulus, who works in the office of Felicia Langer. Boulus met the military governorate legal advisor last week in order to discuss his complaints against the systematic torture inside the prison. (Translation: Al Ittihad, May 28, 1984)

Prison Terms for Six Palestinians

The Israeli military court in Ramallah sentenced May 24 six Palestinian residents of the Hebron and Jerusalem districts to different terms of imprisonment on charges of membership in 'illegal organisations.' The Palestinian youths were also charged with committing 'offences against the security order.'

Mohammed Daher Hemedat, 23, from Bani Na'em in the Hebron district, was sentenced to 30 months in jail and a 24-month suspended sentence for membership in Fatah and undergoing military training in Lebanon and Syria. Hemedat, who is a student at the Jordanian University in Amman, was accused of rendering services to the Fatah organisation during 1983. Nasser Mohammed Sheqair, 18, from Sawahera suburb in Jerusalem, was sentenced to a total of 30 months.

Sharhabil Moneer Karajeh, 24, from Halhoul in the Hebron district, received a six-month jail term and 10 months suspended sentence. Adnan Fasfos, 18, and Yousef Amari, 17, both from Dura, were sentenced to 14 and 12 months each in jail and 16-18 suspended. Fasfos and Amari were also charged with membership in an illegal organisation, incitement and violating security orders.

Palestine Week Brings 5000 to Hebron U.

A five-day Palestine Cultural Week at Hebron University was concluded May 28 with a traditional Palestinian wedding ceremony, attended by about 5000 people from various parts of the country.

The day earlier, Israeli authorities confiscated books, magazines, cultural items and documents when Israeli soldiers broke into the Hebron University. Authorities claimed that sponsors of the Palestine Cultural Week exhibited illegal materials and publications. Both the student council and officials of the university insisted it was a "legal activity which students hold every year."

At 10:30 pm May 25 four Israeli military patrols broke into the university campus and confiscated 100 books, local magazines, newspapers, historical documents, posters, maps of Palestine and portraits.

Some of the confiscated materials were pictures of Palestinian martyrs such as Sa'ad Sayel, Majed Abu Sharar and Abu Ali Iyad.

Two student council members, Sa'eda Sharif from Halhoul and Ali Ayash from Hebron, were summoned May 28 to the local military governorate. Later Ayash told *Al Fajr*, "The civil administrator accused us of participating in organising the cultural week." The military official told the students that the festival "is an illegal activity." He also threatened "to take the necessary legal procedures against those responsible for the cultural week."

The university insists that the campus activity is "legal." Mahmoud Abd al-Aziz, the university advisor on student affairs, and Mohammad Mahdi, a lecturer in Palestinian Studies, spoke at the opening ceremony.

Various activities including exhibitions, singing, lectures on folklore, plays and poetry recitations took place during the week. Twenty *dabkeh* groups from the West Bank and Gaza Strip performed dances on the university grounds. A member of the student council said: "We estimated the number of daily visitors at 5000. They came from the Galilee, the Gaza Strip and the remotest areas in the West Bank. The success of the cultural week angered the authorities, who decided to harass its organisers."

Seven thousand books, 50 paintings, prisoners' paintings, press clippings, historical news bulletins, newspapers, industrial materials, farm implements, traditional clay-made ovens and plants and flowers of Palestine were exhibited over three floors of the university building.

Water for Bethlehem District Diverted to Settlements

Seventy thousand residents of the Bethlehem district have been suffering since April 25 from the recurrence of the yearly water crisis. This year the immediate problem resulted from faults in the water pump in the Beit Fajar artesian well, which is the sole well belonging to the Bethlehem Water Department. The well normally supplies residents with 120 cubic metres per hour. As a result of the pump failure, Bethlehem residents now receive only one-third of the needed water quantities (which is 250 metres) from the two remaining wells which are administered by the Israeli Mekorot Company. But observers note that the quantities of water allowed to be pumped from these two wells for Arabs is disproportionate to that for nearby settlements.

Bethlehem Water Department officials brought a small drilling machine May 9 to lift the fallen pump from the 237 metre deep well, but the attempt failed. Officials at the Israeli Water Company said that the pump needs a bigger drilling machine.

Bishara Kharoufi, head of the Bethlehem Water Department, claims to be working hard to solve this sensitive and important crisis. Kharoufi told *Al Fajr*: "I signed a contract with the Israeli water company Mekorot to do the repair work within 10 days but the company's workers will start working in the field on May 28. The repair operation cost us US$30,000," Kharoufi added. Kharoufi was also speaking to a four-member delegation from the Dheisheh refugee camp who came to protest against the 35-day water stoppage. He promised to do his best to ease the water crisis.

Members of the delegation spoke about more detailed problems regarding the water crisis in the camp. One member said: "The water does not flow to the upper regions of the camp." "We came to fight you," another young man said. Kharoufi firmly said, "I gave orders to supply water to the camp for six days." He pointed out that the water pipe system in the camp is rusty and needs to be changed for a new system, and thus it loses much of the water sent to it.

Water Sources

Four wells, Beit Fajar and Herodion 1, 2 and 3, supply 800 metres of water per hour to the Hebron and Bethlehem districts. Herodion 1 and 2, in Tequra, supply the Hebron and Bethlehem districts with 400 metres. Six months ago the pump's motor in Herodion 3 stopped functioning and Israeli military authorities since then have not yet brought another motor. "The motor could be fixed within 24 hours but the authorities have no concern about repairing the well," Kharoufi pointed out.

Attempting to find a solution, officials of the Bethlehem Water Department pressed the Israeli authorities to find alternative water sources. This week 62 cubic metres per hour earmarked for settlements in Gilo and around Beit Jala and Beit Sahour were provided to Bethlehem's Arab residents. Mekorot officials are sure about the success of the company to repair the Beit Fajar well, Kharoufi said. "The Hebron and Bethlehem districts are in urgent need of another well to be dug to solve radically the water crisis," Kharoufi said. Two years ago, officials of the Bethlehem Water Department asked authorities to provide detailed information and costs for digging a new well. Later they learned that it cost JD70,000 to 100,000. On May 9, Bishara Kharoufi sent a letter to the Israeli liaison officer for West Bank water affairs in Beit El asking for a licence to dig a new well.

The Bethlehem Health Department sent a report on the negative health affects which resulted from the lack of sufficient water supplies in Bethlehem. The health department officials pressed Israeli authorities to solve immediately the crisis.

Dheisheh Camp

The 10,000 residents of Dheisheh refugee camp have been forced to use water from natural springs in nearby Artas and Sulieman Pools. Hundreds of men, women, elderly persons and youths carry all kinds of tins every day and walk two to three kilometres to bring water.

Abd al-Majid Atta, Dheisheh camp's *Imam*, described the situation in the camp as "unbelievable. We want to say to all concerned authorities that residents of the camp will soon break into their offices if the water crisis is not solved," the bearded religious man said.

Mohammed Abd al-Qader, a resident of the camp, told *Al Fajr*, "It is a permanent crisis we face every year. It usually starts in June and ends in October."

Two years ago, some Bethlehem residents suffered 40 days without a single drop of running water. The yearly crisis often leads schools and other institutions to buy water carried by trucks.

Kharoufi also appeals to residents not to consume much water in irrigating their gardens or storing water in their primitive wells. "This," Kharoufi added, "would deprive other residents from receiving their water rations."

Beaten Bookshop Owners Hospitalised

Gaza bookshop owner Tal'at Safadi is under police guard in Shifa Government Hospital following his April 11 arrest for "possessing material inciting against the government" and "attempting to destroy evidence." Safadi was arrested along with a customer, Said Ghanem, when police raided the Scientific Bookshop across the street from the Gaza central police station.

Police found a copy of a petition supporting the March conference in Aden where PLO factions met to discuss an agenda for reconciliation towards national unity.

The police beat Safadi when he tried to rip up the signed petition during the course of their search of his shop. They took the document, arrested Safadi and demanded that Said Ghanem, the only customer in the shop at the time, sign their search order, acknowledging that they had conducted the investigation in a peaceful manner. When he refused, he was also arrested. Ghanem was kept in the police jail for 33 days without charge and finally released on IS10,000 bail.

The court refused bail for Tal'at Safadi in a May 21 hearing, though he is charged with minor offenses. Safadi is suffering from an acute peptic ulcer for which he has been hospitalised, under guard.

His bookshop was raided several times during the past two years, he and his eight-year-old son were charged with distribution of illegal literature (magazines legally published in East Jerusalem) and the shop was closed for six months in 1983 on one of these charges.

Drobless: 'Arabs Are Cancer for Jerusalem'

The head of the settlement department of the World Zionist Organisation, Matitiyahu Drobless, said May 28 that the Palestinian population "is spreading like a cancer around Jerusalem" over a large area and threatens the "capital" from the sides. He said this was due to the ongoing influx of Arabs from West Bank villages to vacant areas which "belong to the state."

Drobless indicated that according to estimates, in recent years 100-150,000 Arabs moved from West Bank villages to metropolitan Jerusalem. He added that if intensive settlement activities do not begin immediately around the capital, it would not be possible to prevent the "uncontrolled expansionism" of the Arab population into vacant areas. He stressed that "we have to make the public aware of this reality before it is too late."

Drobless was presenting a Jerusalem development plan, to the year 2010, before the Greater Jerusalem Council, set up by the WZO settlement department and the Zionist council. According to him, the central goal of the plan is to double the Jewish population in the area within 25 years from 320,000 to 700-750,000. (Translation: HaAretz, May 29, 1984)

Writer Charged With Banned Books

Nearly two years after Israeli troops raided and searched his house short story writer Jamal Bannourah from Beit Sahour was notified early this month that he was to go on trial before an Israeli military court for "possession of banned publications." Yasmin Bannourah, Jamal's oldest daughter, will also be tried on charges of bringing illegal publications into the West Bank.

Bannourah, who is also a retired school teacher, received a charge sheet May 10 accusing him of possession of nine literary publications in his home. Six of those listed on the charge sheet are novels or short stories by Palestinian writer Ghassan Kanafani, who was assassinated in Beirut by Israeli agents in 1972. Among other publications, the authorities seized books of poems by Samih al-Qassem, a Palestinian poet from the Galilee, and Afnan al-Qassem, a Nablus writer.

Bannourah and his daughter Yasmin are also accused of bringing *al-Talia* newspaper from Jerusalem to Beit Sahour without a permit.

Jamal Bannourah's house was raided in September 1982, when he was arrested and the books confiscated.

Arafat Advisor Praises Soviet Role

Dr Asa'ad Abd al-Rahman, former spokesperson for PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and now a lecturer at Kuwait University, praised the Soviet Union's continuing efforts to resolve differences between the PLO and Syria.

In an item entitled "Palestinian Unity: the Unity between Palestinians Inside and Outside the Occupied Territories," which was published in *Al Fajr* Daily May 27, Abd al-Rahman wrote that "it is not a secret to say that the Soviet Union is playing a leading role in efforts to achieve a Palestinian reconciliation, an Arab reconciliation, and a Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation."

On prospects for the next stage, Dr Abd al-Rahman wrote that the inter-Palestinian and inter-Arab struggle after September 1982 forced progressive Palestinian and Arab forces to recognise the need to achieve a real unity. This unity must be based on the principles of adhering to Palestinian national rights and to

Local observers believe that the positive atmosphere following the reconciliatory meetings in Aden, South Yemen, Algiers, Algeria, and Damascus, Syria to resolve differences between Syria and the Fatah Central Committee were due to the 'good will' efforts made by the Soviet Union. Arab national rights. This, however, necessitates isolating 'sick trends' and extreme right-wing and left-wing trends. "This, we think, is the grounds that the meetings in Aden, Algiers, Damascus or Moscow nowadays are based on," he wrote.

Abd al-Rahman also attacked those who stand against Palestinian and Arab reconciliation and said they were subordinating themselves to "suspicious personal political circles," to narrow minded political ideology, to unproductive rejectionism or to extreme right-wingers attached to American illusions." (Translation: Al Ittihad, May 28, 1984)

MK Toubi Charges Political Censorship

MK Tawfiq Toubi submitted a question May 23 in the Knesset to the Israeli defence minister regardingly censorship of the Arabic press.

In his written statement, Toubi pointed out that the military censor has interefered in the upcoming Knesset elections by crossing out news and opinions regarding the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

Toubi, the second on the DFPE list for the July 23 elections, said in his request that Palestinian newspapers published in Jerusalem are not even allowed to publish items relating to the election campaign. Toubi referred to an editorial published in the Rakah daily *Al Ittihad* but censored for reprinting in *Al Fajr* Arabic daily.

Toubi said that banning of such publication and news of the election campaign occurs despite the fact that in 1979 Israeli officials said, "Any material published in the Israeli press should be allowed in the Arab press." This statement was made on July 10, 1979 by Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Tzipori, who was responding then to a request by Toubi.

According to Knesset regulations, government officials must respond to a question by any Knesset member within three weeks.

Norwegian Trade Unionist Meet Palestinian Colleagues

A six-member Norwegian delegation met May 26 with Palestinian unionists and political figures in Nablus and were informed about workers' conditions in the occupied territories. This information disputes claims of the occupation regarding "the improved conditions under which Palestinian workers labour."

The delegation, representing the press, telephone services, railways, communications and transportation, met with Shehadeh Menawi, the head of the West Bank Palestinian Workers Unions Federation, and members of its executive committee. They also met Bassam Shaka'a, the dismissed mayor of Nablus.

Menawi told *Al Fajr*, "In four hours of discussions we informed members of the delegation about harassments utilised by Israeli authorities against the union to foil symposiums, festivals, lectures and other cultural activities." Members of the delegation were briefed by the Histadrut and the Israeli ministry of labour on the working conditions of the Palestinian workforce and were told that no discrimination is practised against them. Menawi told *Al Fajr*, "We clarified the workers' situation and provided them with the necessary documents corroborating our statements." Menawi said that members of the Norwegian delegation were notified of details concerning the austere conditions and long hours Palestinian workers put in leaving their homes at 5:00 am and returning at 5:00 pm.

Seventy thousand workers from different areas in the West Bank work in Israeli factories and workshops. Fifteen thousand Palestinian workers lost their jobs as a result of galloping inflation and the economic crisis sweeping the Israeli economy. Menawi told *Al Fajr* that the federation plans to establish factories which would employ more Palestinian workers in the West Bank and to construct housing projects and cooperative societies. However, the Israeli authorities refuse to issue permits to perform such projects.

Bassam Shaka'a, said that he spoke about the escalating growth of settlements in the occupied territories. Shaka'a informed members of the delegation about the iron fist policy practised by the occupation and the Jewish terror underground in the occupied territories. "Freedom of expression no longer exists and there is a lack of channels to counter human rights violations in the occupied territories," Shaka'a noted. "The Palestinian people in the occupied territories,"

Mubarak Sweeps Egypt Poll

After two days of delay, results of the Egyptian general elections were officially announced May 29. The National Democratic ruling party won 391 seats in the Egyptian parliament (the People's Council) and the newly established Wafd party won 57 seats. The opposition parties were not able to win the minimum of 8 percent to obtain seats for parliamentary representation.

Parties of the opposition including the National Progressive Unified Coalition, the Liberal party, and the Socialist Action Party, including Wafd, accused the ruling party of "illegal practices in the electoral process."

Fuad Siraj al-Din, Wafd secretary general said he will file a complaint in the Egyptian courts against wrong procedures in election. Siraj al-Din told reporters that he has sufficient evidence to support his accusations. Khaled Muhi al-Din, secretary general of the coalition convened a press conference to expose scandals of the National Democratic Party regarding elections procedures.

Strict measures were taken to disperse crowds and to prevent unpermitted meetings. Reporters said that a woman who supports the Socialist Action Party, Neimat Mohammad Hassan, was killed and 20 persons were woundd as a result of violence during the elections. Some voting centres were also closed.

The total number of voters was 5,146,455. They were divided as follows:

Party	Votes	Percentage
National Democratic Party	3,756,359	72.9
Wafd	778,131	15.1
Socialist Action Party	364,000	7.1
National Coalition	214,517	4.1
Liberals	33,448	0.06

The percentage of people voting was only 43.14 percent and in the main provinces the percentage was only 25 percent.

According to election regulations, the votes which were won by the opposition parties will be transferred to the winning party. This law was put into effect by the National Democratic Party. Therefore, the parliamentary representation of the National Democratic Party is now 87.3 percent, and of the Wafd Party is 12.7 percent.

Palestinian observers believe that the elections in Egypt is a democratic step. However they feel they do not fully reflect democratic practices because of the restrictive laws levied against the opposition according to which the opposition parties are unable to obtain representation in the parliament. Observers noted that in Israel the percentage for opposition representation in the Knesset is only 1 percent.

The Dawn

AL FAJR

AL FAJR – Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

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THE PALESTINE NATIONAL FUND

The increasing intensity and boldness of Jewish acts of terror coupled with considerable international pressure forced the Israelis to finally start cracking down seriously on these terror groups. Initially, the Israelis tried to minimise the size and the organisational strength of the Jewish terror underground. However, faced with concrete and indisputable facts and the likelyhood that this Jewish underground could get out of hand which could in itself lead to grave consequences, Israel arrested well over 25 suspected Jewish terrorists.

Instead of distancing themselves from these terrorists, prominent Israelis, including Israel's Deputy Knesset Speaker Meir Cohen-Avidov, encouraged such acts and publicly stated that "We have to tear out the eyes and the guts of the Arabs."

Notwithstanding, the most astounding revelation appeared in the findings of the Zorea Commission of Inquiry which investigated the deaths of the four Palestinians who hijacked the Tel Aviv-Asqalan bus No. 300 on April 12. The Commission found out two of the Palestinians that were captured alive were subsequently murdered in cold blood due to skull fractures resulting from blows dealt to them by blunt instruments by their Israeli captors.

The presence of Israel's defence minister, Moshe Arens, and his chief-of-staff at the site of the murder puts added responsibility on the Israeli government's shoulders. Those military officers involved in the actual beatings are unquestionably guilty, however, their commanding officers are more guilty since responsibility usually lies with those higher in command.

If Arens thinks that the wrong committed by murdering the commandos, could be forgotten or forgiven by appointing the Inquiry Commission then he is wrong. In the first place, Arens tried to hide the truth and only after photographs were presented showing the commandos alive, did he agree to appoint a Commission. However, Arens tried to put the blame on junior officers and on the excuse that no orders were given to kill the commandos.

Notwithstanding, the murders were committed and Israel's government is the murderer.

The question that we would like to ask is how many more cases of similar murder are committed, albeit with no photographers on the scene to dispute Israel's versions?

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PALESTINIAN UNITY AND A CLOSING OF RANKS: VOICES FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT

PLO commando in south Lebanon.

by As'ad Abd al-Rahman

It is no longer a secret that within most of the Palestinian factions and forces, even within the broader Arab forces, there are trends which call for political categorising, crystallisation and polarisation, not only at this stage but also during the days that hold out the hope for a possible Palestinian reconciliation.

It is also common knowledge that in the Arab world there are regimes and political trends that are influential and that are always either extremely moderate or extremely hard-line. They constantly hope and seek and drive to push things, Palestinian-wise at least, to the point of categorisation, crystallisation and polarisation or perhaps to the point of inter-Palestinian or Palestinian-Arab or inter-Arab fighting. In either the first or the second case, there is no similarity in the starting points or in the viewpoints or in the excuses or in the goals for the sake of which those factions, forces, regimes and trends push the Palestinian differences to the point of categorising which, in turn, entails crystallisation, polarisation and fighting.

Though some figures, factions, forces and regimes that advocate the categorising and whatever it entails are forces whose good will is always beyond doubt, yet there are broad Palestinian and Arab and international forces that have doubts regarding the clarity of the vision and the discretion of those figures, factions, forces and regimes. Some of them, by the way, belong to the Palestinian political circles that are extremely moderate and some belong to the Palestinian political circles that are extremely hard-line. We may record here that if the path to 'Doomsday Hell' is full of people with good will, the path to 'Wordly Hell' with its political action is also full of people with good will.

At different levels it is no secret also that there are, at the various Palestinian, Arab and international levels, political forces and factions and organisations and regimes that still hope and seek and urge all the parties concerned to discard the idea of categorising whether it is performed at this stage or during the crucial days of national unity. For such ideas might have serious consequences. It is not a secret to say that the Soviet Union stands at the head of the forces that seek specifically to bring about a 'Palestinian reconciliation' on the one hand and an 'Arab reconciliation' on the other hand. The Soviets are driving, in particular, towards achieving the broadest possible 'Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.'

Many believe that the positive climate that was generated following the conciliatory meetings in Aden, Algeria and Damascus, together with on-going efforts to bridge the gap between Syria and the Central Committee of Fatah, wouldn't have been possible had it not been for the pressures, or rather the good offices, of the Soviet Union.

Now we are on the threshold of decisive meetings for the Palestinian-Palestinian conciliation in Algeria first and then for the improvement of relations between the central committee and Syria. We are hopeful that the meetings will aim at formulating a national revolutionary programme that will be capable of confronting the enemies of the cause and the nation. It has to be free of any vagueness and inconclusiveness that are often imposed by the meetings that merely seek to achieve 'conciliation for its own sake.' At the same time, to put it bluntly, we can't deny that we are full of apprehension at the possibility that these meetings will end up in failure. This dismay and fear stem from our deep conviction that these meetings are not only the 'last chance' but they are also the meetings for the final hope.

"These meetings are not only the 'last chance' but they are also the meetings for the final hope."

Should this hope fail to materialise, the Palestinian arena will be liable to suffer from the most fearful collapse, with the bloody splits that will accompany it, and that will certainly tear away the PLO with its factions, struggles and achievements.

All of that — if it takes place — will represent a free gift to the enemies of the cause and the nation. For the present stage is not a stage of national settlement — not to mention its being a stage of national liberation.

Nowadays it seems to us that the Palestinian and the Arab, national and progressive forces, which have been at loggerheads throughout the post-September 1982 period, have come to realise, through the good offices of the Soviet Union, that some last and late convictions were costly. The gist of these convictions is that their former conflict and bitter fighting have exhausted their purposes. It is quite obvious also that these same forces have realised that in order to eliminate these sick trends, be they extreme moderates or extreme hard-liners, there has to be some sort of reconciliation or a quick national revolutionary understanding. It has to be done quickly and objectively with the main prerequisite that there will neither be excess nor negligence in either the Palestinian or the Arab national rights. This is, in my opinion, the main purpose of meeting either in Aden or Algeria or Damascus or Moscow. It requires, among other things, revolutionary awareness necessary to tighten the elimination of the recalcitrant voices calling for the rejection of the Palestinian and Arab understanding and reconciliation. Such voices as we may hear coming from Palestinian and Arab figures and forces, that enslaved by their own narrow and doubtful interests and whims and deeply rooted political malice. Or be they governed by political naivity and futile rejection, just as they are governed by right-wing orientation that is excessive in moderation and trust of American illusions.

Protect the Freedom of Artistic Expression

by Gideon Spiro

From: The Israeli Committee of Solidarity With Bir Zeit University
To: The Israeli Painters and Sculptors Association

May 22, 1984

To Chairman of the IPSA Hedva Shemesh and Director of the IPSA Sarah Hazan,

The Israeli CSBZU asked me at their last meeting May 20 to address the IPSA concerning the case of Fathi Ghabin. This Palestinian artist, one of the most famous in the occupied territories, was tried at the military court in Gaza May 10 accused of executing paintings which constitute 'incitement against Israel.' The military prosecutor brought as 'evidence' his painting '*Al Amal*' (Hope) and the prosecutor argued that in the upper part of the painting are the four colours of the Palestinian flag which prove his case. The military court found the Palestinian artist, father of seven children, guilty and sentenced him to six months in jail, six months suspended and fined him IS30,000.

This case in the military court is shameful and a spot on the state of Israel, its institutions, leaders and values. This case demonstrates the deterioration of Israel in the last 17 years due to the occupation and oppression inflicted on the Palestinian people. Basic human rights, the grounds for any democratic society, were denied. The attempt to charge artists who express the wishes of their people for freedom is an old one and is always used by colonial and tyrannical regimes. The Jewish people suffered greatly through its history from similar oppression.

It is said that the state of Israel did not learn the lessons from Jewish history and adopted the classic colonial principles of colonialism in its relations with the Palestinian people. The Palestinian artist Fathi Ghabin did what one expects from every artist who works according to his conscience and belief. He expressed the agony of his people, their struggle against the occupation and their desire for national freedom.

We ask you, the IPSA, to act according to basic principles of solidarity and to come out with a strong protest in this case and demand the government of Israel immediately cancel the trial and release Palestinian artist Fathi Ghabin immediately. If the government of Israel does not accede to this demand, we ask you to mobilise the international Committee of Painters and Artists Associations, your colleagues, to raise their voices as well and to call on UNESCO to add their support to the noble cause of the cancellation of the trial and securing the release of Fathi Ghabin.

This act by the IPSA should be done as early as possible not just because of the principle, but also through self-interest. We learned in the past week that the Israeli authorities closed an Israeli paper *Hadashot* inside the 'green line.' The norms of oppression don't stay in the occupied territories but also infiltrate into the state of Israel. If the IPSA doesn't want one of its members to be tried in similar circumstances in the future, then they should come out today with a strong protest to have this sentence cancelled.

Please remember, there is no neutrality and silence can only be interpreted as support for this obscenity.

Gideon Spiro
Committee of Solidarity
with Bir Zeit University

The More Information, the Better

by Michael Italie

To the Editor,

I've only been subscribing a short time, but I like the newspaper a great deal. I have a couple of ideas you might consider.

'Window on the Arab Press' is interesting, but I think it would be useful to identify the article more fully than just the name of the paper from which it came. The purpose of the page is to present a spectrum of views on events; therefore it might be useful to note the political party, government, or trade union, etc, which the various newspapers represent.

You have a number of articles partially or totally censored each week. Is there some kind of time limit involved? For example, there may be articles once censored but now permitted, which would be of interest to readers for that very reason. Perhaps a pamphlet could be made of such articles?

You normally make clear distinctions between Zionists and Jews, and for that reason I found the cartoon on p. 12 of the May 4, 1984 issue unfortunate: [Democratic Party presidential nominee contenders, Gary] Hart, [Walter] Mondale (and [Jesse] Jackson, too) are scrambling for the Zionist vote, not the Jewish vote. We should not unwittingly aid the Zionist formula of 'Zionist equals Jew.'

In solidarity,
Michael Italie

Moral Problems in the Jewish Dilemma

by Raymond Dickman

Repeated Jewish condemnations of the PLO are a kind of moral incitement which leaves the Jewish conscience at peace with itself. For the Jews, there remain two major moral problems in Israel and outside it: the question of *Eretz Israel* (the land) and the Israeli Law of Return.

The Concept of Eretz Israel

By their protests, and even by their proposals for territorial compromise, many Jews have significantly rejected the concept of a Bible-inspired greater *Eretz Israel*. Along with this, the basic religious questions that are raised by the greater *Eretz Israel* disciples are impossible to be detoured by proposals for concessions or exchange of territories. There is a need to confront the problem in order to solve it.

At the time of the Godly promise written in the *Torah*, Islam did not exist. There is no reason to presume that only Jews are to be included in the framework of that promise today. Until God appears in front of us on a news broadcast of a major television network to clarify electronically the significance of the Promise in our days, there is no way to make any conclusion from those chapters in the Torah.

We, the Jews, are not the only people that have holy scriptures and so, therefore, isn't it more logical to aspire for an Israel that is located within limited borders and that lives in consent with its Arab neighbours than to use the holy scriptures as if they were a real estate contract, a use that seems to desecrate the holy?

From a secular point of view, *Eretz Israel* is translated into a 'clear national aim'—a policy of 19th century-style imperialist expansion taking place in the anti-colonial atmosphere of the 20th century. It considers the Arab people as objects which should be removed or pushed aside. It justifies secrecy and trickery. After all, there may not be a central point related to everything connected with this problem; either the concept greater *Eretz Israel* is just, and the Jews must by all means continue to strive for the expansion of Israel's boundaries until they reach their Biblical definitions, or it is mistaken and false and Israel's expansion should be stopped and Israel should state its preparedness to concede the territories of Gaza, East Palestine and the Golan Heights.

Perhaps (Former Prime Minister Menachem) Begin is a pious fanatic. (Former Defence Minister Ariel) Sharon is perhaps not because he has no religion and doesn't worship any God besides that of violence and death. It is possible to consider the pair as the product of a society and culture nourished by the idea of *Eretz Israel* (and if it were Begin and Sharon instead of Abraham, can anyone imagine God making the Promise at all?).

The time has come for men like (former Labour Party Foreign Minister) Abba Eban and the other moral voices in Israel to speak out about the morality bound up with this problem. They should stop manoeuvring the subject through one territorial proposal or another, leave aside the tradition of the Kings of Israel and free the prophets' tradition. They should expose the racism and neo-Nazism that are close to the surface of the non-Jewish concept of greater *Eretz Israel*.

The Law of Return

According to the Law of Return, all Jews residing outside Israel live in exile and are therefore absentee Israeli citizens. A Jew from Chicago and New York who wants to live in Israel, despite the fact that for hundreds of years there was no sign of their roots in the Middle East, has no difficulty immigrating and receives full citizenship on arrival. In the meanwhile, the Palestinians who left perhaps in 1948, or their descendants, are not permitted to return although they had roots here for hundreds of years.

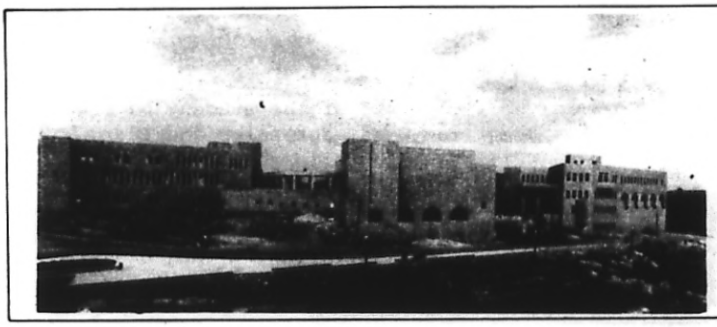
From this analysis it is not difficult to see that whatever the initial aim of the Law of Return, it has become a racist doctrine because of its discrimination against non-Jews, mainly Palestinians. Furthermore, the law by its nature is expansionist in its aspirations, like the concept of greater *Eretz Israel*. As long as Israel retains the Law of Return, it is almost certain that it will strive for expansion. These who object to expansion will be swept away politically. Perhaps they will have an occasional victory after an economic crises but their victories will be temporary and short-term.

No one denies that there are persecuted Jews who have a good reason to immigrate to Israel. The best act of the moral voices inside Israel is to challenge explicitly and clearly the concept of greater *Eretz Israel*. Similarly, Jews outside Israel, mainly in the US, cannot fulfil a bigger *Mitzva* [religious injunction] than to call on Israeli Jews to abolish the Law of Return and to replace it with a more just and fair immigration policy for both Jews and Arabs.

Let's aid the return of people in similar numbers to the trees we planted. Let's declare what we know the truth: the American-Jewish community is not in exile; the Palestinian Arabs are. (Translation: HaAretz, April 5, 1984)

Maher Abukhater talked to the five-member staff of Bir Zeit's new Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences about their work analysing pollutants, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. The centre opened in January and boasts one of the best-equipped, most sophisticated labs in the area.

BZU'S CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES: ADDING TO THE GROWING WEST BANK COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME



Left: Bir Zeit University's New Campus, where the new Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences is located. Above: Gabi Baramki, acting president of Bir Zeit University, who developed the idea of the new centre.

An unusual phenomenon appeared in the West Bank last year. Hundreds of schoolgirls in the Jenin area simultaneously showed severe symptoms of poison like nausea, vomiting and fainting. The apparent poisoning, an unprecedented occurrence, caught every one in the West Bank by surprise.

A group of scientists from Bir Zeit University intervened to analyse the problem in search of possible clues as to the cause. But they were faced with one deadly obstacle; the scientists were not able to find any West Bank laboratories able to scientifically analyse the poison samples they had collected.

Ten days after the incident, an American scientific team came to the West Bank to study the data. But by then, the poison samples were gone and data collected could not have been accurate. Besides, the report of the American team was regarded by Palestinians as biased since it was based on data collected by the Israelis, a non-neutral source.

This incident caused the Bir Zeit scientists to realise their helplessness when faced with such cases. This gave them the incentive and determination to make up for the deficiency. Work then began on the creation of a technologically advanced laboratory able to analyse complex compounds to a highly accurate degree.

The idea had been there before. It was developed several years ago by Dr Gabi Baramki, acting president of Bir Zeit University. However, absence of staff and lack of money delayed implementation of this idea until the summer of 1982, when Dr Ramzi Sansur was hired by the university to build this laboratory.

Ramzi Sansur, a PhD in environmental toxicology from the Institute of Environmental Medicine at New York Univesity, with concentration in aquatic toxicology and a background in occupational health and safety, began immediately planning for the new laboratory. His dream was of having one of the most advanced laboratories in the world, equipped with highly technological instrumentation and qualified staff. A laboratory was not his final goal, but only one step towards building a centre to detect and follow up environmental and health issues in the occupied West Bank. The centre created in 1983 was later to be called the 'Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.'

Even though the centre is relatively new, it has taken upon itself the task of following up and tackling every environmental problem hazardous to people in the occupied territories. This may seem a big task. But considering that this centre is the first of its kind in the West Bank, its work will be even a bigger task than can be imagined.

According to Sansur, the centre has a two-fold mission — to do research and to offer services to Palestinian society. However, research is more stressed, due to the nature of the centre.

The centre does three kinds of scientific research. First, there is environmental health. They collect and build up data about the extent of pollution in water, foods, drugs and air in the West Bank and Gaza as related to human health. It is currently doing research on pollution in the West Bank and on Gaza water sources, which according to Sansur, are plagued with serious problems. However, no definitive results have been compiled and therefore no official statement can be made on this issue.

The lab also does what the scientists call 'residue analysis.' This has to do with testing contamination and pollution of local produce. Usually residues of pesticides remain on vegetables and fruits after they are marketed. The job of the centre is to check this level of residues and report the findings to farmers, agricultural consultants and the public. Information is delivered to the public through lectures by the researchers or through action by voluntary groups.

Samir Abu al-Haj, who has an MS degree in pharmacology from Loma Linda Medical School in California and two years of experience in pesticides, was hired by the centre to work in this area. His work will be mainly concentrated on the kind of pesticides used on vegetables in the West Bank and Gaza. Abu al-Haj believes that in many instances, pesticides which have been banned in the industrial world because of their hazards are still being exported to less developed countries. His job will also include exposing these frauds and reporting on them to world environmental protection agencies.

In addition to this, the centre wants to help municipalities deal with garbage disposal without polluting the environment. The second area of research for the centre is in pharmaceuticals. The centre's work will be to make sure that medical companies supply people with good medicine. This is done by testing samples of the different drugs on the market. So far, the centre has tested 50 different samples and is planning to test more after the scientists develop more methodologies.

In addition to testing drugs, the centre has proposed to the medical companies to cooperate with it in producing better quality drugs. Some companies have welcomed the idea, particularly since the centre is equipped with instrumentation the drug companies lack but need for their work.

One of Sansur's first choices of staff to help in developing the center was one of the university's chemistry professors, Simon Kuttab. Kuttab, a BS in pharmacy and a PhD in organic medicinal chemistry from the University of Kansas in the US, one of the world's leading universities in pharmacy, was chosen to be in charge of the centre's pharmaceutical research. He will direct the watchdog service of the centre, concentrating on production of higher quality drugs by drug companies in the occupied territories.

Kuttab said Israel has centres for quality control but when it comes to the West Bank and Gaza, these centres offer only "token" assistance. He said by the time the Israeli centres check the drugs and issue results, the drug is already marketed. The Bir Zeit centre, he explained, will do immediate work and give immediate results.

Another thing in the pharmaceutical area is to do 'physical test analysis' on capsules, tablets and suppositories. This means to check for hardness of the drugs as well as disintegration of capsules in the body. Kuttab explained that the centre will do "tablet and capsule dissolute rate tests to guarantee the bio-availability of the drug," that is, the availability of the drug in the body. None of the drug companies do such tests, he added.

The third and last concern is occupational health and safety. This is still in its initial stages. Most of what the centre has done so far is visit manufacturing companies and talk to workers to see what occupational problems they face. One example is the stone-cutting industry and noisy industries. Sansur said these two industries need immediate attention because they are causing severe health problems. The centre wants to see how it can improve occupational safety without hurting output.

Since the establishment of the centre, efforts have been concentrated on buying equipment to furnish the laboratory. By the time much of the equipment was purchased and the lab started to function early this year, it turned out to be a challenge to the most sophisticated labs in the world, including the US, according to Sansur. He said the lab was "well-equipped to handle any level of analysis and deal with all kinds of organic compounds with very low concentration." In fact, the lab is equipped to detect to the parts of a billion. This shows the sensitivity and accuracy of the equipment, which is highly important in laboratory research. Sansur stressed that it sometimes is important to detect such a small level because pollutant elements may accumulate in the body over time causing health hazards to that person or to future generations.

With the instrumentation the lab has, "separating mixtures of organic compounds, using them in identification and determining their concentration" becomes an easy job, explained Sansur and Kuttab. Present in the lab are chromatography instruments like gas-liquid chromatography, high pressure liquid chromatography and thin-layer chromatography. These are the most sophisticated and do most of the important work.

Other complicated instruments are spectroscopes. These include an infrared spectroscope and a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. There are also instruments used to test drug capsules and tablets. Most importantly, there is an IBM computer for the use of the centre. The centre is still very young. But it has as lot of work to do. It has to start from scratch and begin collecting data since none exists in the occupied territories. The scientists in charge of the centre pride themselves that it is one of the best quality control centres in the whole Middle East, if not the world. They predict a great future for their centre in areas of research and services to society. Right now they are operating from a small laboratory in Bir Zeit's new campus. But they will move to a bigger area once more science buildings are built on campus.

The work for getting the centre going was hard. Buying the instrumentation was difficult as well as getting funding and proper facilities, like electricity and water pressure in the lab to handle all this advanced equipment.

The idea for the centre emerged as a service to society. This is what those in charge of it stress now. They hope that the public will cooperate with them and inform them of environmental, occupational or pharmaceutical problems present at places they are not aware of. They stressed that the public has to show concern in its environment and health and seek assistance from the centre whenever there is serious need.

At the same time, the centre is planning to expand in staff and work to become a watchdog over all industries in the occupied territories and to be able to diagnose environmental and occupational health problems, regardless of their nature.

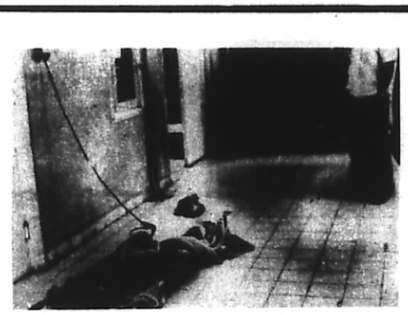
Other members of the staff include Mary Nahhas and Haza'a Hammad. Both have BS degrees in chemistry. Nahhas got her degree at Beirut University College (formerly Beirut College for Women). She also has five years of experience in drug analysis. Hammad graduated from Bir Zeit.

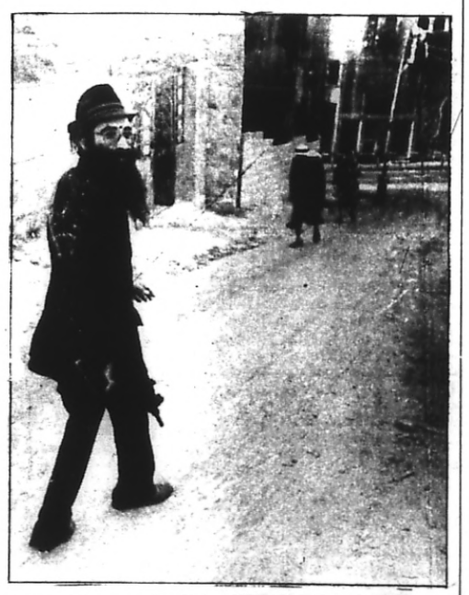
Al Ittihad, the Haifa-based daily newspaper, published a list, translated from *HaOlam HaZeh*, of sabotage attacks committed by the Israeli terror underground during the last five years. Members of the underground are currently being tried for many of these attacks.

138 SABOTAGE OPERATIONS IN FIVE YEARS

The following lists most of the sabotage attacks by right-wing fanatics and settlers against Palestinians in the occupied territories and their property in the five years from March 1979 to March 16 this year. The recently discovered settler terrorist underground admitted responsibility for the operations. *HaOlam Hazeh* published the list May 16, 1984.

1. March 1979 — Settlers attacked Halhoul, Hebron district, and indiscriminately opened fire on Palestinian residents. Two young Palestinians were killed during the operation.
2. April 24, 1979 — Settlers from Kiryat Arba uprooted hundreds of trees on land belonging to Hebron-area villagers. Settlers also broke into houses and destroyed furniture.
3. June 1979 — Settlers destroyed and damaged 27 vehicles in Halhoul.
4. June 2, 1980 — Booby-trapped bombs were planted in vehicles belonging to three mayors in the West Bank. Bassam Shaka'a, the mayor of Nablus, was injured and both legs were amputated. Karim Khalaf, the mayor of Ramallah, lost a foot and Ibrahim Tawil, the mayor of al-Bireh, miraculously escaped death. A Druze soldier was also blinded in the incident when he attempted to defuse the bomb in Tawil's car.
5. August 3, 1980 — A bomb exploded outside the East Jerusalem office of the Arabic daily *Al Fajr* — there was extensive damage to the facade of the building and to the area's electricity supply but no one was injured.
6. October 25, 1981 — Unidentified people attempted to set fire to a car belonging to Hanna Siniora, the responsible editor of *Al Fajr*. A passerby discovered the fire.
7. June 1981 — Yossi Dayan, an assistant to Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of Kach, brought a parcel to *Al Fajr* saying it was for Hanna Siniora. An employee refused to accept it and Dayan immediately ran off.
8. February 1, 1982 — A grenade was hurled at the Da'na family house in Hebron. Their store was damaged partially.
9. March 1982 — A group of settlers from Kiryat Arba attacked Beni Na'im village, Hebron district, and opened fire on Palestinian residents. The settlers killed one young man.
10. March 10, 1982 — Settlers from Kiryat Arba threw a grenade at the house of a widow in Hebron.
11. March 17, 1982 — Settlers opened fire at the house of a Tulkarm resident. No injuries were reported.
12. March 19, 1982 — Settlers opened fire at youths in Sinjil, Ramallah district, and killed Abdullah Sehwail and wounded two other persons.
13. Settlers from Beit El destroyed rear and front windows of 30 vehicles in al-Bireh.
14. March 21, 1982 — Settlers opened fire at two buses owned by Palestinians in Ramallah.
15. March 21, 1982 — Settlers opened fire at Arab vehicles in Batin.
16. March 23, 1982 — Settlers kidnapped an Arab youth from Sinjil.
17. March 26, 1982 — Dozens of vehicles in Ramallah were destroyed or damaged by settlers.
18. March 27, 1982 — Settlers opened fire at Palestinian demonstrators in Halhoul and a Palestinian youth was killed.
19. March 27, 1982 — Settlers attacked Taibeh village, Ramallah district, and broke into several houses in the village destroying furniture. Settlers also opened fire into the air.
20. April 11, 1982 — An Israeli soldier belonging to an Israeli underground terror organisation broke into al-Aqsa mosque and opened fire on people. He killed three Palestinians and wounded dozens of people.
21. April 24, 1982 — Settlers burnt tyres of 100 vehicles in Nablus.
22. May 5, 1982 — A 14-year-old girl was killed in Arroub refugee camp, Hebron district, when a settler opened fire on her. The settler claims his vehicle was stoned by demonstrators.
23. September 19, 1982 — Settlers planted a bomb in a school in Hebron. The bomb was defused only moments before it would have exploded.
24. September 26, 1982 — Settlers opened fire on Palestinian residents in Nablus and killed a 16-year-old youth and wounded others.
25. September 28, 1982 — A bomb planted in Hussein Ben Ali School, in Hebron, exploded and two Palestinians were wounded. Ten other bombs were discovered in the playground.
26. January 10, 1983 — Settlers riding in an ambulance fired into the garden of a Palestinian resident in Nablus. A bus and a building in the vicinity were damaged.
27. January 13, 1983 — Settlers from Kiryat Arba destroyed four pylons in Hebron.
28. February 1, 1983 — Settlers opened fire at houses in Hebron.
29. February 1983 — Unidentified people destroyed electricity pylons in Hebron, cutting off six Palestinian families.
30. February 26, 1983 — A bomb near Qazzazin Mosque in Hebron exploded, wounding two persons.
31. February 26, 1983 — Settlers opened fire on a family in Hebron and killed a four-year-old girl.
32. February 26, 1983 — Nine pistol shots hit a house belonging to the Ja'abari family in Hebron. Alia Ja'abari was wounded.
33. February 28, 1983 — Yisrael Fox, 19, member of Kach movement, opened fire on an Arab vehicle near Nikim settlement, in Hebron.
34. February 28, 1983 — A member of the Ja'abari family in Hebron notified the police about the disappearance of his son. His son was later found near Kiryat Arba. Settlers claimed they caught him throwing stones.
35. March 1, 1983 — A Palestinian resident of Nablus announced settlers broke into Farouq School and opened fire into the air.
36. March 9, 1983 — Settlers broke into Kalandia refugee camp, near Ramallah, and opened fire.
37. March 10, 1983 — Settlers attempted to break into al-Aqsa Mosque.
38. March 11, 1983 — Settlers opened fire in al-Bireh and wounded a 12-year-old boy.
39. March 13, 1983 — Bir Zeit University announced three Israeli settlers beat three students from the university.
40. March 13, 1983 — An unidentified person opened fire at the house of Dura Mayor Mohammed Mousa Amr, damaging the house.
41. April 4, 1983 — Fatmeh Salah Ibrahim Abu Mayaleh, 65, was stabbed in the face and body by students at a Jewish religious schools in Aqbat Khaldieh in the Old City of Jerusalem.
42. April 4, 1983 — A 14-year-old Palestinian boy from Hebron was wounded in the arm and another from Nablus was wounded in the back when settlers opened fire at them.
43. April 5, 1983 — A settler from Kiryat Arba opened fire from his vehicle at people from Arroub refugee camp and wounded Mohammed Hassan Serhan, 18.
44. May 3, 1983 — Settlers broke into Beit Jala, Bethlehem district, and caused damage to 40 vehicles.
45. May 5, 1983 — A group belonging to the 'Defence Arm' claimed responsibility for burning vehicles in Halhoul.
46. May 21, 1983 — A Jewish youth, 15, from Kiryat Arba was arrested on charges of puncturing tyres of vehicles belonging to Palestinians and damaging a restaurant.
47. June 7, 1983 — Collective retribution occurred in the market after the murder of Aharon Gross. Ninety percent of shops suffered partial damage and some were destroyed.
48. June 11, 1983 — Settlers broke into Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and threatened Palestinian worshippers with their weapons.
49. June 26, 1983 — Unidentified people destroyed an incomplete house near Kiryat Arba.
50. June 26, 1983 — A massacre at Hebron University left three Palestinians dead and 40 wounded.
51. June 26, 1983 — Settlers opened fire in the centre of Nablus and Killed a 20-year-old Palestinian woman and wounded another.
52. June 27, 1983 — Armed settlers and soldiers opened fire at Israelis (sic) protesting the killings at Hebron University. One woman was killed and 33 persons were wounded.
53. July 31, 1983 — Settlers destroyed olive trees in Mukhmas village near Ramallah. The settlers attacked Palestinian peasants who attempted to stop them.
54. August 1, 1983 — The East Jerusalem office of *Al Fajr* Arabic was attacked by settlers. Settlers threw Molotov cocktails at the newsroom. It was partially damaged but no one was injured. 55. August 5, 1983 — Settlers demolished a house in Hebron.
56. August 5, 1983 — Settlers attacked Bir Zeit town and opened fire.
57. August 10, 1983 — Three settlers kidnapped a resident from Biddo village, Ramallah district, and stole IS360,000.
58. August 18, 1983 — Three vehicles from Gaza were stopped at a military checkpost. Money and jewellery were stolen.
59. August 18, 1983 — Armed settlers uprooted vegetables in a field near Jerusalem.
60. August 31, 1983 — Unidentified people opened fire in Silwan.
61. September 1, 1983 — A fire was set in a school in Gaza where documents and furniture were burned. An Israeli expert was called but he did not go to the scene of the incident because it occurred on a Saturday.
62. September 3, 1983 — A booby-trapped bomb in a television set was discovered at Tareq Ben Ziad School, Hebron.
63. September 11, 1983 — Settlers from Shilo broke into Karyot village and uprooted 820 olive trees. They claimed ownership of 20 dunums. Other settlers rampaged over 10 dunums in Shakat and Yasouq villages. One thousand olive trees were uprooted.
64. September 15, 1983 — More than 10 youngsters from Arroub refugee camp were beaten by settlers.
65. October 3, 1983 — Residents of Dheisheh refugee camp announced that settlers backed by Israeli officers attacked buildings belonging to nationalists in the camp and attempted to set fire to them.
66. October 5, 1983 — Yousef Shabanil from Silwan was stabbed to death by an Israeli.
67. October 9, 1983 — Four settlers from Kiryat Arba were accused of illegally demolishing an incomplete building.
68. October 12, 1983 — Settlers from Kiryat Arba broke into Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron without taking off their shoes. This contradicts Islamic principles. They repeated the act for three days.
69. October 15, 1983 — the body of Mohammed Abd al-Ghafer from Hebron was found one week after his disappearance.
70. October 27, 1983 — Settlers attacked Jalazon refugee camp, Ramallah district, in revenge for stone throwing. Similar attacks were reported over two days in Jalazon and Bir Zeit.
71. October 30, 1983 — *Yeshiva* students in the Old City of Jerusalem harassed Mousa Abu Khalis to force him and his 13-member family to leave their house.
72. November 2, 1983 — Four thousand dunums of olive trees were damaged by settlers in the Nablus area. Settlers refused to permit fire fighting equipment to get to the area.
73. November 6, 1983 — Unidentified people destroyed windows of 16 cars belonging to residents of the village of Silwan.
74. November 9, 1983 — Settlers from Kiryat Arba broke into Tareq Ben Ziad School in Hebron and indiscriminately opened fire. Students forced them back by throwing stones. Settlers arrested the school principal. He was released later after he had been beaten by settlers.
75. November 21, 1983 — Settlers in Arab clothes broke into the Dheisheh refugee camp and opened fire on residents. They wounded three persons.
76. November 27, 1983 — Settlers blocked the main road leading to Halhoul and threw bottles at residents' houss.
77. November 30, 1983 — Settlers attacked two guards at Najah University in Nablus.
78. December 1, 1983 — The body of a Palestinian resident of the Nablus area was found.
79. December 2, 1983 — Yahyah Neman and his father from the Old City of Jerusalem were beaten by students of the Birkat Avraham *Yeshiva*.
80. December 3, 1983 — Settlers claiming they were dispersing demonstrators broke into a school at Balata refugee camp in Nablus and arrested students. They took them to the military governorate in Nablus.
81. December 7, 1983 — A four-kilogramme bomb, made in Israel, was found in the vegetable market in Nablus.
82. December 9, 1983 — Settlers opened fire at passers-by in the Old City of Nablus and killed 11-year-old Aisheh Adnan Bahash and wounded her nine-year-old sister and three other persons.
83. December 9, 1983 — A time-bomb was discovered at the entrance of the Franciscan Church near Damascus Gate in Jerusalem.
84. December 9, 1983 — A booby-trapped bomb was discovered near the entrance of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem. The bomb was defused without causing injuries.
85. December 9, 1983 — A bomb was discovered near a nunnery in Jerusalem.
86. December 9, 1983 — A bomb was defused in a mosque in Beit Safafa, near Jerusalem.
87. December 9, 1983 — Bombs were discovered in a car park in the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem. Police sources believe settlers hid them.
88. December 12, 1983 — Three time-bombs were discovered in Husan village, near Jerusalem. One exploded and damaged a house belonging to Fatmeh Shoshi.
89. December 13, 1984 — Explosive materials were discovered in a boys school in Dura, the Hebron district.
90. December 18, 1983 — A bomb, planted by settlers, exploded in Bethlehem.
91. December 20, 1983 — A bomb exploded in a mosque in Azzariya and wounded an *Imam*.
92. December 20, 1983 — A bomb exploded at the Greek Orthodox church in Ras al-Amoud and a nun was wounded.
93. December 21, 1983 — An attempt made to destroy vehicles parked near the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem.
94. December 26, 1983 — A bomb was discovered in Aziz Shahin Girls School in Ramallah.
95. December 28, 1983 — Settlers attacked Um Safa.
96. December 28, 1983 — Two bombs were discovered in two mosques in Hebron. 'Terror Against Terror' claimed responsibility.
97. January 5, 1984 — The Anglican school in Jerusalem was arsoned.
98. January 8, 1984 — A burning tyre was thrown at Sa'ad al-Din Mosque in Nablus.
99. January 9, 1984 — Settlers smashed windows of 15 vehicles belonging to Palestinians in Ramallah. One person was attacked and hospitalised.
100. January 10, 1984 — A group of settlers smashed windows in six vehicles in Beitin and Ramallah.
101. January 15, 1984 — A bomb exploded at the Russian Monastery in Ain Karem, near Jerusalem.
102. January 19, 1984 — Unidentified people set fire to offices of the Committee for Local Affairs in Dheisheh camp, near Bethlehem.
103. January 22, 1984 — A bomb exploded near Nebi Samuel Mosque, north of Jerusalem.
104. January 27, 1984 — An attempt was made to blow up al-Aqsa Mosque with 29 kilogrammes of explosives.
105. January 27, 1984 — Settlers prevented Palestinian peasants from cultivating 700 dunums of land in the Hebron district.
106. February 5, 1984 — The body of Wajdi Fuad Rashid was discovered in a field after he had been missing for week.
107. February 11, 1984 — Settlers stoned Arab vehicles in Dheisheh camp and smashed windows. They left the camp under the protection of Israeli soldiers.
108. February 21, 1984 — Residents from Bani Hussein village in Tulkarm filed a complaint with the military authorities and police against settlers of Natvim settlement who threatened to use force against them if they did not leave their land. The settlers damaged crops in 164 dunums, despite an order from the Nablus Magistrates Court preventing from settlers entering the land.
109. February 26, 1984 — Settlers opened fire at a French monk from Saint John's Monastery, south of Jerusalem.
110. Ferbuary 29, 1984 — A bomb exploded in Palestine Square, Gaza.
111. March 4, 1984 — A bomb exploded near the Hospice Hospital in Jerusalem.
112. March 4, 1984 — Six Palestinian workers were wounded after a bus was burned near Ramallah.
113. March 7, 1984 — A bomb was discovered near a girls school in Ramallah.
114. March 8, 1984 — A bomb was discovered in a school in Kalandia refugee camp.
115. March 10, 1984 — Three bombs were discovered in a school in Ramallah and were defused.
116. March 11, 1984 — Two settlers broke into shops in Nablus and threatened shopkeepers. They said they intended to kill two people in Nablus.
117. March 13, 1984 — Two bombs were discovered in the centre of Ramallah. Two weeks before, two similar bomb were discovered in the same square.
118. March 16, 1984 — Two bombs were discovered at the entrance of Sinjil village, Ramallah district.
119. March 16, 1984 — Settlers erected prefabricated houses on land owned by Palestinians in Hebron. Settlers ignored an order *nisi* from the Israeli High Court.
120. March 30, 1984 — Eighteen vehicles were wrecked by settlers in the Old City of Nablus.
121. April 1, 1984 — A bomb was discovered near the house of Mustafa Yaqoub in Husan village. The incident was attributed to an Israeli gang.
122. April 6, 1984 — An Israeli-made bomb damaged a vehicle belonging to Shiekh Ali Taziz, chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce in East Jerusalem.
123. April 9, 1984 — A bomb planted by settlers a year before was discovered. One settler defused the bomb and hid it.
124. April 16, 1984 — A lecturer at Bir Zeit University was kidnapped from his house in Ramallah. After two weeks, his body was discovered in fields near Latrun, Ramallah district. There is no confirmation made by settlers.





Clockwise from lower left: Settlers from Kedumim settlement collecting weapons to return to the IDF. They gave the IDF total responsibility for protecting them, protesting the 'automatic suspicion' which falls on them after violent incidents in the occupied territories; graves desecrated in Lydda by TNT; Bassam Shaka'a in hospital after the June 2, 1980 booby-trapping of three West Bank mayors' cars; one of the 40 injured in the attack on the Hebron University on June 26, 1983 in which three were killed; an armed settler patrolling a West Bank village.

A Plague of Stones

by Raja Shehadeh

The Knesset of the state of Israel — now called Kanees * — has come to be what it should naturally be, with none participating but the wisest and the most venerable. Qualification for membership is to be a rabbi and so all those convening were wise, with long and bushy beards. The chairman of the Kanees was the wisest of the lot. So old was he that his eyes only half opened and he saw of those assembled only a small number of those nearest to him. Hence there was always pandemonium in those parts of the hall which were beyond his range of sight and too far for his old ears to hear.

Of what could be made out of what went on in this fifty-fifth session of the Israeli Kanees, here is an account:

"Venerable members of this holy Kanees;" the wise chairman began, "*Eretz Israel* is the land of our forefathers, the land which was promised to us by Him. Every grain of soil, every spot in Israel has been touched and sanctified by our most revered. The process of purifying this holy land from all who are not holy is a great and noble goal.

"This goal, my brethren, is not yet fulfilled. There is in the land an epidemic. It is not caused by germs nor by virus but by bigger things. It is the stones that are the plague of the land. And like in all times of plague which our forefathers have suffered in their long and noble past, a national crisis must be declared. And in a state of war, everything you may decide against the enemy is legitimate for if you do not strike first, the enemy — the meek and deceptive enemy — will strike at you. And a stone can be a lethal weapon.

"The security of our women, of our children, of all of Um Israel ** calls for your courage and wisdom, to consider this calamity and decide upon the best course to take to meet it and defeat the impure and cleanse His land and make it pure and safe for the people whom He chose to have it.

"Be patient. Be calm. Be strong and speak out about your proposals for dealing with this latest phase of our struggle to fulfill His will and redeem Israel.

"I will now open the floor for all those who wish to speak."

Everyone wanted to speak and all spoke together, the young ones with the louder voices competing unfairly with the older rabbis who had the wiser things to say.

Enough of the cacophony reached the ears of the chairman to make him raise both his hands — as if he was blessing everyone — and bid all be silent. Most of those in the front with the hushed voices submitted to the chairman's order (no doubt because they are disadvantaged) but those in the back continued. Then the scribe screamed with a voice so loud that even the chairman heard it, and everyone was terrorised into silence.

"The floor is for Rabbi Menachem Shamir," the chairman announced and an old rabbi shivering with emotion stood up, combed his beard with his fingers and overcame his stage fright (which has plagued his career as a member of Kanees since he attained that role) by screaming out his speech.

"*Goyim*. The *Goyim* still live on our Jewish land. And they attack us with our stones. After all these many years of struggle of our people to redeem the land, the *goyim* still defile it. And they still dare attack us. In the name of Him, can this be accepted by Um Israel?"

Here the rabbi began to shout and scream louder still, tearing with his fingers at his bushy beard so that some thought he might incur a heart attack at his old age. Then his voice calmed down but became more bitter:

"I can still feel the stone they threw at me," he continued with a shivering voice. "I was in my car with Elisa and our eight children. We were driving through our inheritance, the beautiful hills of Judea (which, alas, are so stoney) when I felt the stone like a firebomb hit my side of the car forcing me to jump toward Elisa to hug and protect her. Our car veered to the left and hit a rock and veered to the right and hit another (damn the cruel rocks). The screams of the children still echo in my ears. Elisa jumped across me and took control of the driving wheel and saved us all, God bless her. And ever since, she has been shouting at me: 'In God's name save us from danger. Bring us peace.' And to you here, I repeat Elisa's same words with the same reproachful tone I have to tolerate from her day in and day out: do something, wise men of Israel. Save the children and the women. Bring peace to the land of Israel. Two thousand years have passed and we have not yet attained peace. Shame on you, men of Israel. Two thousand years and you still do not have control over the stones of the land which God promised you. He created the stone to test you, to shame you, to remind you of your failures. Everytime a *goy* picks up stone, it is a reminder to you of your duty to Him. How much longer must you be reminded? How many more stones must hit me and my Elisa before you are moved to action? The stones of this land shame you. The stones are your shame, shame shame..."

At this point in his speech the emotional rabbi shivered so and became too overcome with emotion to be able to continue. But the high emotional tone achieved by him was picked up by a younger member with a stronger heart who could endure to speak even when the emotional level was so acute. And in a loud military-type voice, he announced:

"This is a time of war. The laws of war allow us to use any means to defend ourselves. I say it is legitimate in a time of war to kill every child who raises a stone in his hand because when he does this he becomes not a child, but a soldier aiming a lethal weapon at the people of God. To kill a child, I say, is permitted by *Halacha* for it is done in self-defence. Let us use the law, I say, to kill all the enemy, destroy them all without leaving any man, woman or child who may threaten the life of anyone of our people who only desire to live in peace. Our security, I say, makes the annihilation of all our enemies imperative. This is the only way to purify the land."

Everyone in the Kanees remembers how Rabbi Kahan (with the shortest beard of all the members) always goes beyond the others and proposes the most extreme solutions. But as had happened so often in the past, Rabbi Kahan's extreme position was counter-

balanced by a speech from the most-loved rabbi in the whole of this Kanees, who does not speak very often, but who makes everyone become silent the moment he moves his knees to stand up because the words he speaks seem to come right from his heart.

"I drove through the meadows of this great land," Rabbi Israel said, "amidst the lush green grass and the flowers which are so plentiful in the land of zion and then came upon a pile of stones. They were jutting out, half-concealed by a thin layer of soil, and I thought of their evil and of war and how our enemies' hands pick them up and throw them at us in war. I say, my brethren, we must remove the evil from the land, remove the ugly and leave only the beautiful, only the flowers, only the grass for Um Israel and lovers of beauty and peace. The final and ultimate purification of the holy land from stones will be an operation for peace — the final solution. I call on everyone here and all those whom you represent to put all they have to make this operation for peace succeed. There are many hands amongst our people and they are a determined and patient people. Remove the stones, I say, and you shall have peace. Peace forever."

The venerable rabbi turned to his right and said, "*Shalom*," and to his left and said, "*Shalom*," and everyone returned his greeting. Then he sat down amidst the silence of his admirers.

At this point the scribe motioned to his clerks to pick up the law book, which was so fat that it needed four hands to handle it. They placed it before him and opened a new clean page. He dipped his quill in the ink and prepared himself to receive the dictation of a new law. From long experience he had acquired a feel for the way things progress in the Kanees of Israel.

The silence thus achieved provided Rabbi Hammer Pratt, the least popular member with the weakest voice of all, his chance to make his debut and he took full advantage of the opportunity.

"I had a dream," he said. "Yes. I had a dream, a beautiful and peaceful dream. I dreamed, venerable members of this Kanees, that I was driving through my people's land where there was only soil and not a single stone. Yes, my brethren, I had a dream..."

"Point of order," shouted Rabbi Tamir, whose dislike of the speaker exceeded that of all the others. "The honourable member is filibustering. I mean resorting to oratory. I quote to you rule number 135987, which prohibits any member of the Kanees to descend to oratory to make a point (if he has one) in any discussion in this hall."

Rabbi Cohen turned to his friend Rabbi Hess and said: "Did you hear this? He called Rabbi Pratt 'honourable member.' That's uncharacteristically polite of MK Tamir."

"Perhaps he has been listening to the BBC too often," Rabbi Hess answered. Rabbi Cohen stood up and screamed: "I move we prohibit the listening to the BBC by members of this Kanees. The BBC cannot be tolerated any longer. The British were our worst enemies."

No one supported Rabbi Hess's motion or understood what brought the British to his mind except perhaps the association between their stubbornness and stiffness and the discussion of stones.

In any case, Rabbi Hess's proposal was not without benefit. It silenced both Rabbis Pratt and Tamir so that the discussion could be resumed from the point where Rabbi Israel's wisdom had advanced it.

"*Mah Pit Om*," came the shrill piercing voice of Rabbi Rabin cutting through the hall as though what he was going to say was the most obvious thing in the whole world. "Why not have a stone-picking machine to remove all the stones from the land? When a body is infected, the doctor prescribes an antibiotic to attack the germs. When one has a toothache the dentist plucks out the tooth. And when the land of Israel has a stone plague, Um Israel imports from the US a big machine to pluck out the stones and throw them into the sea. We will also be enlarging the land of Israel by drowning the water with stones (though I must confess I only thought of this bonus now) but why not?"

The Rabbi continued: "I propose that we import from our friends, the United States of America, a great huge sieve through which the soil of this holy land will be passed. The good will be separated from the evil and in the snares of that great machine the evil stones will be caught. The evil will then be thrown into the sea and so peace will be attained for all of Um Israel."

Though the Rabbi's proposal was met with general enthusiasm, there were the usual divisions amongst the members of the Kanees. The line went roughly in the middle. The Rabbis on the right were more supportive, but from the left of the hall other proposals were made.

"Why we go to the west for more war machinery," one rabbi said, "when we can use simpler self-help techniques? I propose that cars be manufactured here in Israel without roofs and that drivers wear helmets and stone-proof clothing (not very unlike what scooter drivers wear). In this way a stone can do no harm."

And there was another proposal that yet more Jewish settlements be built and the Jews in New York, whether they like it or not, be brought to them to clog the lands so that the Arabs will be unable to throw stones.

But both these and other proposals along similar lines were not acceptable. The land of Israel is too warm to make scooter-type gear comfortable to wear and besides a rabbi wearing such clothing

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Israeli control over previously self-regulated Arab *services* has created chaos, black markets and inefficiency. Here Daoud Kuttab describes the problems Palestinians in Jerusalem face in operating and using their own unique transportation system, under heavy Israeli restrictions appropriate to the city's higher degree of annexation. Group taxis, or *services*, the most popular method of travel in major Arab cities, were banned from East Jerusalem in 1969.

PALESTINIAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: TOUGH COMPETITION

The question of transporting residents of any city to residential suburbs and work is normally given considerable attention by local and national governments. But in Arab Jerusalem and its suburbs, where over 120,000 residents live, the Israeli occupation government has done little to regulate or ease the transport of workers, employees and residents. The problem is further complicated by the lack of a national transport company or any other responsible public body.

The transportation situation in the Jerusalem district is very different from the rest of the West Bank. In Jerusalem the occupation authorities enforce Israeli civil law to indicate its 'higher' degree of annexation, whereas the rest of the West Bank is run by the military government which continues to use — in regards to public transport — the basic Jordanian law which was in effect before the Israeli occupation in 1967. The basic difference is that in Jerusalem the Israeli transport ministry permits a certain level of competition between different companies. In the rest of the West Bank, the military authorities have kept tight control on the various sectors of public transportation.

The first distinction between Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank came in 1969 over the issuing of taxi and *service* licences. During the first years of occupation the Israeli ministry of transport honoured the categories of taxi licences that had been in operation since before 1967. But in 1969, after a dispute between Israeli bus companies and the ministry over route concessions, the ministry backed down and agreed to stop issuing the permits for taxis to operate as *services*. *Service* taxis ply fixed routes picking up passengers at a fixed rate.

This change gave West Bank *service* owners an edge over Jerusalemites. The edge is easily seen when one compares the black market cost of buying a taxi plate in Jerusalem and that in the rest of the West Bank. According to taxi drivers, the cost of renting a licence plate of a taxi in Jerusalem today is about JD4000, while in Ramallah or Hebron the plate can be rented for up to JD12,000.

At first the Israeli officials refused to allow any driver to operate a taxi unless the licence plate was in his name. Later, with many complaints from drivers that they lose much money when they are sick or during off hours, the authorities allowed drivers to operate taxis without necessarily having their own plates. Transfer of pre-occupation licence plates was also permitted but Israeli-issued plates are not allowed to be transferred except after a 10-year lapse.

The drop in the black market cost of the Jerusalem plate has other reasons. Arabbi Tamimi, owner of the Middle East Taxi office in Jerusalem, explains when the problems of Jerusalem taxis began. "Since 1976 (when the Likud government took office), the government has given taxi licences without any regard to the ability of the restricted Jerusalem market to absorb them." Tamimi explains that unlike the rest of the West Bank, where the number of licences issued is constant and the licence is transferred from one driver to the other, in Jerusalem "the ministry of transport has issued over 280 new taxi licence plates in the past five years alone."

Taxi company owners said that even the ministry's own requirements for issuing plates are not adhered to. "Many bus and truck drivers pay an Israeli lawyer around US$1000 to get them a licence." Tamimi says that under the law, only drivers of taxis with 12 years of experience and a 'clear' record are entitled to a taxi plate.

Taxis vs Service

Although the Israeli authorities have not issued a *service* licence in 15 years, business is still brisk. True, all taxis with Jerusalem licences do not have the necessary black and white border that designates the *service* but all Jerusalemites have access to *services*. The seven-passenger taxis parked on Nablus Road are known to be the *service* to Anata. Those parked near the old Damascus Gate bus station are known to head for the Mount of Olives. And after 5:00 pm, taxis parked outside Damascus Gate head for Beit Hanina and Kalandia. The government does nothing to stop these *de facto service* taxis. As one driver from Azzariyah put it, "If properly licenced taxis want to take seven acquiescing passengers to a certain spot, who can stop them?"

With the over-abundance of licenced taxis in Jerusalem, the problem becomes more difficult. Taxi owner Tamimi says that the 480 licenced taxis in Jerusalem are more than the city market can bear and that many of the new taxis are barely making ends meet. In the meanwhile, "they are undercutting us despite our long service and reputation," said Tamimi.

The lack of any kind of organised public transportation plan also has a negative effect on passengers. Although the abundance of taxis means that one doesn't normally have to wait long to get around, it also means that the passenger is at the mercy of the driver. Passengers are especially vulnerable in the evenings. With the number of riders dropping, the taxi drivers set their own routes, often extorting double and triple rates from stranded passengers. Despite the obvious exploitation, the passenger usually goes along with it because the rates are usually less than those of a private taxi.

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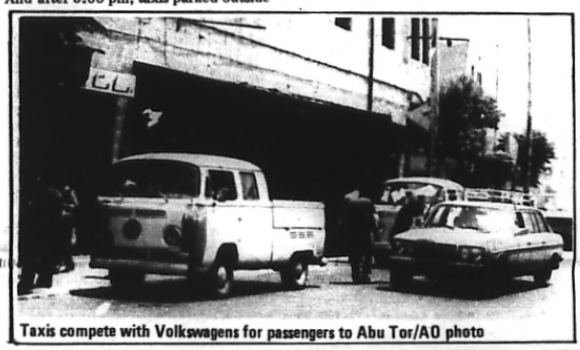

Taxis compete with Volkswagens for passengers to Abu Tor/AO photo

continued from page 10

Plague of Stones

would look ridiculous and only confirm the partial victory of the enemy. The more grandiose scheme, with its promise of curing the problem right at the base, was more appealing.

Still, many wise members had more to say in elaboration of Rabbi Hess's Operation for Peace. And the scribe wrote down in his big red law book that:

> All those amongst the population of the Jewish state who are not required by law to serve in the Defence Army (including members of the Druze community) whatever their age and sex, provided they are not members of the Jewish people, must serve the state by picking stones for three years. They shall start with the district of Judea, which shall be declared at the termination of this first phase of Operation for Peace a 'De-stoned Area.'

On another page he wrote that:

> It is hereby prohibited for any non-Jewish member of Israel to train in stone-throwing. Anyone convicted of engaging in such activity will be sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour involving stone-picking.

As is always the case with legislating, one matter leads to another and the law-makers have to ensure that all possibilities, however remote, are considered and dealt with in the law.

And so use by the enemy of stones for any purpose, however peaceful, was also prohibited and because it was feared that some may use the stones of their own houses, another law had to be entered in the great red book prohibiting the enemy from inhabiting houses made of stone. *All those who at the date of passing this law were inhabiting stone houses must, for security reasons, evacuate them immediately to Jews.*

But what about the road asphalt, which consists of concrete and tar? What if the gravel is removed when the tar is soft from heat? This consideration led to another law requiring all non-Jews to repave their roads with rubber.

Henceforth the enemy will only be allowed to live in those areas where the roads and houses are made of rubber and where stones are totally absent. These areas will be called 'Rubber Areas.' An enemy may not leave his rubber area unless accompanied by a Jew who is in possession of a certificate by a rabbi declaring him competent, responsible, religious and capable of handling an enemy.

One rabbi had a question of interpretation. He wanted to know whether the prohibition in the newly-made law prohibited the enemy from dealing with stones on his own or also when in the employment of Jews such as, for example, in construction work.

The question was debated at length and the majority (despite some resistance from the rabbis on the right) felt that to avoid such an interpretation and others along similar lines which may be made by some wise lawyer from the camp of the enemy before the Jewish Supreme Court, it was better to include a general provision in the law prohibiting, for reasons of security, all non-Jews from dealing — in any way, form or manner, either directly or indirectly, independently or under supervision, for or without consideration — with stones of whatever form, size or nature anywhere and at any time and for any reasons and, to further remove all doubt, a non-Jew may not be involved in any activity involving direct contact with the land of Israel whatsoever.

This last general prohibition was interpreted by means of an example. Whereas a non-Jew may not be involved in cultivation of the land, he may pick the fruits of Jewish farmers because the former activity involves work requiring direct contact with the land while the later takes place in the air. As to construction activities, a non-Jew may only participate in installing windows, doing finishing work and anything having to do with the roofing.

As the legal process began to undress the holy land from its stones in slow measured steps, the ecology-minded Rabbi Meir Artsa voiced strong opposition to the laws being passed:

"We will lose all the tourists if this goes on," he objected. "Anyone reading the Torah knows that Israel has had evil in the form of stones. How else could people have been stoned to death in the old days? The disappointment of the tourists will be great if they come to a naked, stoneless Holy Land."

A heated discussion followed on this point, with many of the old rabbis saying that matters of the security of the Jewish people cannot be decided by the superfluous considerations of the *goy* of this world. Rabbi Heckler stood up and delivered an impassioned speech reminding everyone of the holocaust and ending by saying that Jews have every right to do whatever they deem is necessary for their safety and security.

Everyone, of course, agreed with Rabbi Heckler and the subject was about to be dropped when the most wise and venerable Rabbi Israel surprised everyone by speaking a second time in the same Kanees session (a thing which has not happened for years and which only emphasises the special importance of this session). The silence was pervasive as the rabbi spoke. Everyone heard and agreed to all that the rabbi suggested and the scribe wrote it all down as law, thus;

> *Rubber foam or any other petro-chemical synthetic form of material shall be manufactured in Israeli factories in different shapes and sizes and shall be placed upon the land of Israel where once the evil stones lay. The said substance shall be given the colour of rocks and shall decorate the land with rock that is not rock and which shall be referred to as Shalom Rock.*

There was an unprecedented unanimous consent to this law which was called, after its maker, 'The Israel Shalom Rock Law.'

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

Local press coverage has concentrated this week on the Gulf war, the results of the Zorea Commission and Arafat's visit to Jordan. The bombing of a number of Arab oil tankers and the possibilty of superpower intervention was highlighted in the Palestinian press. All three local dailies gave top coverage to the results of an Israeli investigative committee which found that two Palestinian commandos were beaten to death by Israeli soldiers after a bus hijacking operation.

PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's visit to Amman and the convening of the Palestine National Fund were given detailed coverage in Al Fajr and Al Sha'ab.

DFPE Censored

It was not difficult for any real nationalist to understand the words of the representative from the Democratic Front, Tawfiq Toubi.

In short, the military censor prevented all nationalist newspapers in Jerusalem from publishing anything on the campaign by the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, while they were allowed to freely publish about activities of other lists, particularly the separatist ones whether they were Arab or mixed. The intention behind this was very sinister. All nationalist newspapers in Jerusalem were prevented from publishing the editorial which appeared in "Al Ittihad" last May 16.

These attempts by the authorities in Israel are not new for us. Ever since our bad luck gave us this authority, we were forced to accept "representatives" for our people imposed on us in a way to leave a wrong image of the struggle of our people to the rest of the world.

It was not a coincidence that the authorities tried to use some politically immature youths to portray them in the press and media as an "expression" of the nationalist forces among our people in Israel. It was natural that some mercenaries be brought in to this wave carrying with them some destructive foreign ideas. By doing this, they wasted the future of some of our nationalist people and gave the authority a chance to arrest some of the good youths and put them in jail.

The true nationalists in our country should learn from the interference of the authority when it prevented us from intervening to save the brothers and sisters from this "planned plot."

The editorial, which was prevented from reaching the nationalist papers in Jerusalem, concluded with the following correct statement: We wish from deep in our heart, that this word of ours will reach the hearts of all the nationalists so that no bounding heart will be lost.

The role of the censor is very weak when it comes to such a text.

AL ITTIHAD
May 24

US Aid to Israel

It became a habit for consecutive American administrations, particularly as presidential elections approach, to promise more aid to Israel in order to please the American Jewish voter.

The statements by Casper Weinburger, US Secretary of Defence, to American Jewish newspaper editors, are another new sign of this approach. Weinburger spoke in detail about new military aid to Israel, the most important of which is an American assistance to Israel to build a new missile launcher boat to be added to the Israeli navy. This boat will be equipped with American and Israeli weapons in order to give Israel a strong navy during the 1990s.

Weinburger did not forget either to announce that all military aid to Israel from now on will be grants. He also reminded his audience that talks for strategic cooperation between the two parties are still in progress.

In analysing these statements, the following observations and facts are deduced:

The US is not seeking, or even caring, for a just and lasting peace in this region, as much as it wants to ensure that Israel remains strong.

Washington's efforts to strengthen military cooperation with Israel will escalate tension in this region, and encourage Israel to continue rejecting all international efforts leading to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. In addition, this cooperation will give Israel an opportunity to supply military aid to countries known to be the most abusive of human rights in the world.

There are other developing nations that could use this generous military aid in other fields. But they never get this aid because Israel always receives the lion's share.

Therefore, we can see the negative results of US policy in this region which is based on blind support to Israel disregarding efforts to find a just and lasting peace for this region's crisis, and not even showing concern for the interest of the American citizen. Such a policy can hurt American interests, let alone its dangers on the international level. This continued tension here may set the spark for a third world war.

AL FAJR
May 25

Who is Using the Gulf War?

On Thursday, it was clear that the war between Iran and Iraq had expanded when Saudi air planes interfered with Iranian planes that attacked a Liberian oil tanker.

This Saudi interference comes in light of the instability in the Gulf which is forcing local and international commercial ships away from that area as long as the situation there is still as it is now.

Meanwhile, the proposal by the Gulf Cooperation Council to the Security Council which condemns Iran's attacks without mentioning the Iraqi attacks, and demands that Iran promise not to attack commercial ships, indicates that the war is expanding beyond the two involved nations to include all the Gulf states.

Is the war going to expand and would it include foreign interventions from nations whose interests are threatened as they claim?

We believe this will not occur in spite of the Saudi military move and the statements by governments of some imperialist nations like the US, Japan and France. The reasons for this are found in the imperialist policy which ignited the war between the Iranian and Iraqi regimes and which aims at keeping it in full scale without allowing it to expand while at the same time preventing it from ending.

This is the crux of the whole situation. The destructive war between these two regimes — in which these two regimes are involving the masses to waste all the potential without any hope for ending it — clearly indicates what the imperialist nations are planning and what these two regimes are implementing without realizing it.

A 5-year war of air, land and sea attacks, would have used up all the weapons of these two regimes, never used for the right thing, if it was not for the supply of weapons from the imperialists.

Therefore it is not in the interest of the enemies of the people to stop this war, neither to let it expand.

AL MITHAQ
May 26

Whose Security Guarantees?

There is talk these days about security guarantees and measures for Israel in south Lebanon.

The Syrian President, Hafiz Assad, said in an interview with a British newspaper last week that he does not mind giving these guarantees to Israel. The Lebanese government is urging the US to contact Israel on this matter. Moshe Arens also announces that his army will not withdraw without security guarantees.

While all this is going on, no one is thinking of giving the Palestinians in Lebanon, particularly in south Lebanon, security guarantees. After the Palestinian forces left Lebanon, there was the big massacre in Sabra and Shatila, and a series of attacks, assassinations and terrorism against Palestinian refugees in south Lebanon, the last of which is what recently happened at Ain al-Hilweh camp.

Those who need security guarantees are the Palestinians who are facing many threats. The training Lahad's army in south Lebanon is undergoing is only one example of what will happen to the Palestinians.

AL SHA'AB
May 28

Continue the Investigation

The results of an investigation into the way two of the bus hijackers on the Askalan road were killed, were published yesterday. The report showed that both were beaten to death after they were captured alive.

These conclusions come following weeks of suspicions in the local, Israeli and international press of what has really happened on that day. These suspicions occured at the same time an underground Jewish movement that operated in the occupied Arab territories was exposed.

As for the Israeli government whose Defence Minister Moshe Arens condemned those responsible for the murder of the two Palestinian guerrillas, it has to reveal the identity of those responsible for the murder and bring them to trial.

AL QUDS
May 29

Mi'ari-Peled Run on New Arab-Jewish List

The newly-established Progressive List for Peace announced its intention to run in the upcoming Israeli Knesset elections, May 30.

The list, headed by Haifa lawyer Mohammed Mi'ari, is composed of Arabs and Jews "who are unified in their programme to solve the Palestinian problem," Mi'ari told *Al Fajr* this week.

Mi'ari, who is active in the Committee for the Defence of Arab Land and other nationalist endeavours, is followed by Israeli Reserves General Matityahu Peled, head of the Israel-Palestine Council for Peace, and Rev Riad Abu Asal, a Nazareth nationalist.

According to advocate Mi'ari, the list will work for national and civil equality for Palestinians inside the 'green line' and for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza (including Arab Jerusalem) next to Israel.

Mi'ari says his list considers the PLO as the legitimate representative that can negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians and he says the right of return can be negotiated.

In regards to Israeli occupation, the Progressive List for Peace calls for the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied territories, "whether it be south Lebanon or the Golan Heights."

Mi'ari says his list will work for the "development of Arab villages and for equal economic treatment as well as equality in the distribution of the national budget."

The Haifa lawyer said that the list he heads differs from the Israeli Communist Party in "the way it works rather than on political platform." He called the list a "national" list rather than "leftist."

Mi'ari expects the list to win at least two Knesset seats. He said he foresees "no problem" in introducing a new list to Palestinian voters inside the 'green line.' "There are 13 different factions in the PLO that are convinced that they have the best platform," he commented.

Commenting on the fact that he is running with Zionists, Mi'ari said: "They are of a different brand and we have reached agreement on political issues. Anyway, PLO leaders, including Arafat, continue dialogue with these people."

Number four on the new list is former Sheli MK Walid Sadeq from Taibeh, followed by Ya'acov Arnon, a prominent member of *Alternativa*, and Nuri al-Uqbi, the head of the Beduin Rights Organisation.

Gaza Lawyer Charged for Supporting Arafat

Ibrahim Abu Sitteh, head of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Refugee Conference in the Gaza Strip, admitted May 29 before the Gaza military court his support for Yasir Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The military court has suspended a verdict until evidence is presented showing that Abu Sitteh's support of Arafat is a legal action and not to be considered incitement against the government.

Abu Sitteh is accused of convening an illegal meeting in his home (November 21) which was attended by prominent Palestinians in order to discuss the situation of the PLO in Tripoli. In the meeting, Abu Sitteh called on Palestinian political figures to support Yasir Arafat.

The second charge concerns the publication of a memorandum in *Al Fajr* newspaper on November 21 in which Abu Sitteh and others expressed their support for the PLO.

Ibrahim Abu Sitteh told *Al Fajr* that the accusations are baseless. "I wanted to express my political beliefs. This meeting which I convened," said Abu Sitteh "was a normal political discussion. During the last 15 years, I have repeatedly supported the PLO." Abu Sitteh considers his trial in the military court to be an anti-democratic act. "There is no democracy in Israel," Abu Sitteh said.

Israel Stung By US Arms Sales to Saudis

The United States government confirmed today the sale of Stinger missiles and an aerial refuelling tanker to Saudi Arabia.

In authorising the sale, President Reagan exercised the special emergency authority granted him in the Arms Export Control Act under which he is authorised to send up to 25 million dollars of arms to a region without first obtaining Congressional approval. The president bypassed normal US arms sales procedures because of his fears concerning the escalating shipping war in the Gulf region.

The US decision was taken despite official Israeli government opposition. The Israelis apparently fear the possibility of the Stingers falling into PLO hands.

State Department spokesperson Romberg refused to give specifics concerning US-Israeli conversations about the sale. He hinted, however, that it is normal under similar circumstances for such talks to take place. Because of Israeli pressure, the US cancelled a similar sale of 1200 Stinger missiles to Saudi Arabia two months ago and an even greater number of Stingers to Jordan.

The current US decision to sell the 200 missiles and 20 missile reloads to the Saudis was made by the president, according to Romberg, because of "threats ... to Saudi Arabia and oil supplies on which much of the free world depends" and because of US national security considerations.

The missile launchers are already in Saudi Arabia and their transfer to Saudi hands will soon follow. American crews will be sent to train Saudi personnel in their use. The Saudis "will pay the full cost and their transportation," said Romberg.

The Stinger missile is a one-man operated anti-aircraft weapon effective against low-flying aircraft and with a range of three miles. An additional Saudi request for bomb racks to enhance the offensive capability of the F-15 was turned down by the US. Romberg refused to discuss such a request or even to confirm if the Saudis had indeed asked for permission to purchase the bomb racks.

A Stinger

Israeli Liaison Office To Close

After six days delay Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens admitted May 30 that the Lebanese government has officially asked Israel to close its liaison office in Phalange-held territory north of Beirut. The announcement, made in Washington, ended speculation about the future of the office. Arens said he would shut the mission if Lebanese still insisted.

Israel Radio initially reported Arens statements but later broadcast a statement denying the report as baseless and saying there was no intention to remove the office.

The Lebanese government decided May 25 to close the office. Lebanese Prime Minister, Rashid Karameh, notified Israeli officials of the Lebanese government decision May 24. They were not given a fixed date for quitting Lebanese soil.

Before Arens' statement Israeli officials repeatedly said they had not been notified officially about the closure. Israeli newspapers claimed that right-wing elements in the national government are opposing the removal of the office.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel cancelled last March the May 17, 1983 Lebanese-Israeli agreement under which the Israeli liaison office was established.

ONE DHEISHEH ENTRANCE REOPENED

Bethlehem — Israeli military authorities bulldozed open one of 10 entrances to Dheisheh refugee camp which has been closed for more than one year.

Dheisheh residents had earlier obtained an Israeli court order requiring the authorities to open the entrance once "proper security arrangements against stone-throwing are completed." The authorities recently installed flood lights along the Bethlehem-Hebron road which passes near the camp in order to discourage stone-throwing.

Dheisheh's social youth center expressed concern over recent attempts to incorporate the camp into the city of Bethlehem. In a statement issued by the youth club, camp activists said that they noticed that the Bethlehem city limit sign had simplu been moved to the western side of the camp. The statement also said that recent Israeli plans call to resettling refugees in permanent houses and out of UNRWA jurisdiction.

AL FAJR congratulates Muslims all over the world on the occassion of the start of holy Ramadan

We regret that the following information was omitted from last week's edition, No 212, page 6: "What Dialogue Means for Us" was written by Samir Abu Shaqra and "Freedom of the Press — For Whom?" by Attallah Najjar.

First Terrorist Convicted

Noam Yinon, 27, resident of a Golan Heights settlement was convicted May 29 for his part in the 'Terror Against Terror' (TNT) attacks on Palestinians.

Yinon pleaded guilty to charges of transporting 50 Syrian mines from his settlement last April after plea bargaining with the prosecution. He was originally charged with participating in the attempted massacre of Palestinians in April when TNT booby-trapped several Palestinian-owned buses.

He will be sentenced next week.

The next day, lawyers for the two army officers arrested in the last TNT round-up admitted their clients knew in advance of the plan to put bombs in the cars of three Palestinian mayors and three other prominent Palestinians.

Lawyers for the pair, whose names cannot be published, denied attempted murder charges, however. They said their clients did not know the bombers were planning an assassinaton attempt and that prosecution charges are "exaggerated."

Mayors of Nablus and Ramallah, Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf, were crippled in the assassination attempts. Mayor Ibrahim Tawil of al-Bireh escaped injury but a Druze sapper in the Israeli army was blinded when he tripped a booby-trap at Tawil's garage door.

In the Jerusalem district court one defendant's lawyer said his client was asked to warn the others about the booby-trap. The second denied he knew about it.

The Druze Initiative Committee reacted angrily to the disclosures. It accused the two of knowingly allowing Suleiman Khirbawi to risk his life while on duty because of his Palestinian identity.

In a press statement issued May 22, the Druze Initiative Committee charged that the two Israeli officers did not warn Khirbawi about the bomb that they knew was there "because they viewed him as a Palestinian, just like Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf." The statement demanded that the two officers be punished.

The Druze Initiative Committee was formed in 1972 in the Galilee. It advocates an end to conscription for Palestinian Druze.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 213 June 1, 1984:

Number of original articles submitted to censors	16
Number of articles totally censored out	4
Number of articles partially censored but used	1
Number of articles passed	11

JUNE 6

TEL AVIV — *Yesh Gvul* will organise a demonstration at the corner of Dizengoff and Ben Gurion Streets commemorating two years of the war in Lebanon and 17 years of occupation. 6:00 pm. Transport for payment from Jerusalem 16:30 from Binyane Ha'uma; from Haifa 16:00 from Kikar Solel Bone.

WEEKLY REVIEW

May 23, 1984

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CELEBRATION

A two-hour festival was held at the Palestinian Women's Committee headquarters in Bethlehem in honour of the handicapped.

UNEMPLOYMENT ESCALATES

According to Israeli statistics, 110,000 persons are unemployed in Israel and inflation is estimated at 400 percent.

MERCHANTS STRIKE

Musrara shopkeepers struck in protest against the campaign by Israeli VAT collectors. Jerusalem merchants and shopkeepers convened a meeting at the Arab Chamber of Commerce to complain that Israeli VAT officials levied IS300,000,000 in taxes on them. Under international law, it is illegal to impose new taxes on a population under occupation.

MAKING ACQUAINTANCES

The new military coordinator of activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Shmeul Goren met the mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, and the mayor of Beit Sahour, Hanna al-Atrash, at the Bethlehem municipality. This was the first time the military officer has met West Bank mayors.

YOUTHS ARRESTED FOR FLAG-RAISING

Israeli papers reported that Israeli police arrested three youths from Arrabeh,in the Galilee, all 16 years old, on charges of raising Palestinian flags on the anniversary of the establishment of Israel.

POLICE RAID RAMALLAH BUSINESSES

RAMALLAH — Policemen raided a number of shops here, fining unlicenced businesses JD20 for not having a permit or closing shops.

MINES IN BIDDU

BIDDU — A mine at al-Radar area south of the village of Biddu exploded killing 10 sheep belonging to Abdallah Omar Taha.

May 24, 1984

PUNISHMENT FOR AVOIDING BRIDGES

AMMAN — A reliable source in the Jordanian government said that Jordan is studying the possibility of issuing sentences *in absentia* for West Bank residents who leave the country through Israeli airports or sea ports. The source said that this will pressure those cooperating with Israel who leave through its ports thus avoiding the Jordan River crossings.

THREE HOUSES DESTROYED

JENIN — Israeli security forces destroyed three homes in Izzedin, suburb of Jenin. Homes belonging to relatives Qassem, Ali and Majed Sweitat were destroyed by bulldozers. The Israeli authorities say the land on which the houses were built is 'state land' and that the homes were built without permits.

LAND REGISTRATION DEMANDS

BEIT JALLA — The mayors of Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour are preparing a memorandum to cancel a regulation prohibiting the registration of land transactions in the finance departments. A regulation has been issued by the military governor in Beit El banning the registration of any land transaction except in the *Tabu* department.

PRISONERS RELEASED AFTER 17 YEARS

The Israeli authorities released Za'el Issa Harashe, 34, a resident of Bani Na'im, Hebron district, after a 17-year prison term for a security-related charge.

NO TRAVEL FOR OLD ID HOLDERS

JENIN — Israeli authorities have stopped giving travel permits to Jenin residents holding the old blue ID cards.

BANOURA TO BE TRIED

BEIT SAHOUR — Military government officials informed a well-known story writer, Jamal Banoura, that he is being charged with possession of literary books which authorities say are banned. His trial is scheduled for June 29.

LAND DESTROYED BY FIRE

NABLUS — Trees and crops on 300 dunums of land in the village of Deir al-Hatab were destroyed in a huge fire. Arson is suspected. Residents of the village and nearby villages helped to put the fire out.

BOMB IN BEDUIN MARKET

BEER SABA — A large explosive charge was safely detonated in Beer Saba's Beduin-run market. No arrests were made.

FROM JORDAN TO PRISON

HALHOUL — Israeli military court in Ramallah sentenced Sharhabil Munir Farajeh, from the town of Halhoul Hebron district, to six months in prison and one year suspended on political charges. Farajeh was arrested on his return from Jordan after spending more than 4 years there for a university degree.

NO WATER IN ASKAR

NABLUS — Residents of Askar camp complained that they had no running water for three days.

DABORIYAH MAN SENTENCED FOR MEMBERSHIP

DABORIYAH — The Israeli military court in Lydda sentenced Abd al-Basit Masallah, 28, from the village of Daboriyah to six months after he was convicted of membership in a PLO faction.

May 25, 1984

ISRAELI BUS BURNED NEAR NABLUS

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said that a number of armed *fedayin* stopped a bus belonging to the Dan Company and set it afire after releasing its driver. The incident took place near the village of Qabalan.

LOOSE BULLETS HIT ISRAELI SOLDIERS NEAR BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM — Israeli daily *HaAretz* reported that a Palestinian commando group shot at an Israeli soldier and his brother in Wadi Foukin near Bethlehem. The soldier, Moshe Miblin, was wounded in his feet. Investigators said they discovered Kalashnikov bullets nearby.

ARAB LANDOWNER UNDER THREATS

JERUSALEM — A number of Arab land dealers are pressuring a Jib resident to sign a land sale document in return for JD40,000, but the landowner refuses. The names of several deceased residents of Jib are recorded as witnesses on another land document.

NOT COOPERATING WITH RED CROSS

Red Cross sources revealed that Israeli authorities are not carrying out their commitments which call for the authorities to inform the Red Cross within ten days of the arrest of any resident. The source said that Red Cross officials have made contacts with the authorities in this regard but to no avail.

DIVERSION OF WATER IN NABLUS, BETHLEHEM

Residents of Nablus and Bethlehem are complaining of severe water shortages. Some Bethlehem residents have been without running water for 25 days. Reliable sources said the Israeli water company Mekorot is diverting water to nearby settlements and pumping only 15% of the water needs.

GAZA FISH DESTROYED

More fish was wasted in Gaza after Israeli tax officials refused to allow the fishermen to turn over their day's catch to merchants unless they pay Value Added Tax on it.

GAZA MAN KILLED

Jihad Shaqr, 25, from Gaza was killed by unidentified men. The attackers, who were masked, struck Shaqr with a sharp object in central Gaza and fled before anyone could identify them.

The body was transfered to the Abu Kbir Institute in Jaffa for autopsy.

YMMA (Young Mens' Muslim Association) members singing national songs in a festival at the new Nuzha/El-Hakawati Theatre.

NORWEGIAN UNIONISTS VISIT NABLUS

NABLUS — A delegation of Norwegian unionists visited the heads of the West Bank's Federation of Unions. The delegation also visited Bassam Shaka'a. The Norwegian delegation is on a fact-finding tour, especially in regards to the condition of Arab workers in Israel.

AUTHORITIES THREATEN FIGURES IN GOLAN

NAZARETH — Israeli authorities summoned 10 prominent Druze figures from the Golan Heights to the police headquarters in Kiryat Shemona and threatened to expel them to Syria if they continued political struggle against the occupation. The summons came after the 40-day mourning for prominent Druze leader Nur al-Din Kinj.

198 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM THE FAMILY REHABILITATION SOCIETY

The Family Rehabilitation Society in al-Bireh graduated the 16th class in all its departments. A total of 198 students received certificates in different professions such as secretarial work, weaving, embroidery and literacy courses.

The celebrations were attended by relatives of graduating students.

May 27, 1984

GRENADE ATTACK IN HEBRON

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said that a grenade was hurled at an Israeli bus near Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. No injuries were reported in the attack. Israeli soldiers combed the area.

May 26, 1984

COORDINATION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BRIDGE

Jordanian authorities prevented Badriyeh Abd al-Haq from entering Jordan last week on the pretext that she is an unwanted person. Jordanian soldiers returned the woman to the Israeli controlled side of the bridge under heavy guard. Badriyeh's passport and personal documents were handed over to the responsible Israeli officer at the bridge by a Jordanian soldier.

SIX YEARS IN JAIL

Lydda military court sentenced Ahmad Suleiman Salem from Abu Dis to six years in prison on charges of membership in an illegal organisation, two years suspended. Salem was also accused of receiving military training.

CROPS INTO ROADS

JENIN — Israeli bulldozers started opening a road in Marj Ben Amr plains near the western entrance of Jenin through fields of summer vegetables.

A scene from a festival sponsored by the *Zakat* (Tithe) Fund Committee Association in Jerusalem at Riad al-Aqsa School in Azzariyah.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS BEAT STUDENTS

NAZARETH — Secondary school students from Raineh were beaten by Israeli soldiers near the central bus station in Tel Aviv. The students were on their way back from a visit to Nevi Shalom settlement near Jerusalem. The students sent letters to the Israeli Ministry of Education and police protesting Israeli soldiers' harassments.

MUST EXPLAIN TRAVEL BAN

UM AL FAHM — Israeli High Court issued an order *nisi* against Israel's interior minister and obliged him to explain within 45 days why Catholic priest Fawzi Khouri, from Fasouta, was banned from travel abroad. Khouri was notified March 30 that he cannot travel abroad for a period of six months.

INVESTIGATION INTO FRAUD

NABLUS — *Yediot Aharanot* reported that investigation into a number of cases of land fraud had been frozen as a result of police failure to strengthen its investigation teams. The paper said there are dozens of cases of fraudulent land sales, involving hundreds of dunums of land, but no staff to investigate them.

GUNSHOT PALESTINIAN WEDDING

HEBRON — Despite harassment by Israeli authorities against the Hebron University Student Council, students managed to hold the Palestine wedding festival, at the end of Palestine Culture Week. The festival was raided last week by Israeli troops and much exhibited material was confiscated.

CULTIVATED FIELDS BURNED

QALQILYA — More than 22 dunums of land belonging to residents of the village of Hableh, Tulkarm district, were set afire by unidentified people.

PLANS TO CONFISCATE NABLUS LAND

NABLUS — The Israeli archaeology department is making preparations to fence and confiscate large land areas at Tal Balata, east of Nablus.

The authorities had earlier opened a road through Arab-owned land belonging to villagers from Kufr Qallil in order to connect Elon Moreh settlement with Bracha settlement, on top of Mount Jerzim.

The targeted area contains the two largest schools in Nablus, Haj Ma'azouz al-Masri school and Qadri Toukan School, 1500 students each.

HEBRON SETTLER ATTACKED

HEBRON — An Israeli settler was attacked in Hebron by a Dura man who tried to disarm him. Israeli troops and policemen rushed to the scene and arrested the attacker.

May 28, 1984

ISRAELI BULLDOZERS DESTROY TREES, WALL

Israeli bulldozers working at night uprooted olive trees in land belonging to Salah Abu Rajab. The bulldozers also destroyed a wall belonging to Hajerieh school near Abu Rajab's lands.

10,000 DUNUMS FOR ISRAELI FACTORIES

The Israeli authorities are planning to allocate 10,000 dunums of West Bank land for the establishment of Israeli industry, *Hadashot* daily reported. The paper's report, which was based on a publication of the Israeli Ministry of Trade and Industry, said there are already seven Israeli industrial centers in the West Bank and Gaza. They are divided on Kiryat Arba', Mishar Adomim, Qarni Shamron, Ma'aleh Afraim, Tulkarm, Ariel, and Erez in the Gaza Strip.

The paper further reported that a total of 350 factories will be in operation in the near future; 40 are under construction.

MILITARY COURT CHARGES JERUSALEM FIDAYIN

TEL AVIV — An Israeli spokesman said the two Palestinians who carried out the military operation on King George Street in West Jerusalem in April were formerly charged for the death of one Israeli and the injury of 47 others.

CARS VANDALISED IN HEBRON AND HALHUL

HEBRON — Unidentified individuals broke the windshields of a number of cars belonging to Arabs in Habil Riyah quarter in Hebron. Other vehicles were similarly damaged in Halhul. Car owners submitted a complaint at the Hebron police station.

MOLOTOV NEAR KIRYAT ARBA

HEBRON — A fire bomb was thrown in the direction of an Israeli garbage truck near Kiryat Arba settlement. No one was injured.

FARMERS COMPLAIN ABOUT EXPORT BAN

JENIN — Hundreds of watermelon and honeydew growers complained about the delay in the issuance of export permits. Farmers said the delay has already cost them 30 percent loss in harvest and that if permits are not issued soon, losses could mount to 80 percent.

BEIT LAHIYA CONFISCATION

JERUSALEM — The Gaza military governor handed residents of Beit Lahiya an order closing 2450 dunums of planted citrus lands. This order bans 2000 peasant farmers from entering their lands north of the village to work on it. Residents who have documents proving possession of the land decided to continue work on their lands.

SENTENCED FOR FIRE-CRACKERS

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced Shafiq Talawi to a 10-month prison term. Another Gaza resident, Mahmoud Massoud, was imprisoned for seven months. The two were accused of participating in demonstrations in 1983 and in placing bombs made of matches and tomato cans.

583 KILLED, 3500 WOUNDED IN LEBANON

Israeli military sources announced that the total Israeli casualties since the start of the Lebanon war reached 583 deaths and 3500 wounded when three soldiers were killed and two others wounded on Sunday night in Karmed al-Louz in the eastern sector.

PWJU VISITS PRAGUE

The International Union of Journalists in Prague, Czechoslovakia recognised the newly-elected secretariate of the Palestinian Writers and Journalists Union, headed by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish.

Representatives of the IUJ told a delegation of Palestinian journalists that the IUJ will maintain reciprocal cooperation with Palestinian journalists. Representatives of the IUJ expressed their commitment to the unity of the PLO and its political, union and popular institutions.

The PWJU, headed by Darwish, was elected in Sana'a, North Yemen, last April.

May 29, 1984

TAX RAIDS

Israeli tax men intensified their raids against shopkeepers and vegetable stand owners in Bethlehem. Several vegetables sellers were fined JD 200.

SENTENCES AGAINST RESIDENTS IN HEBRON

Israeli military court sentenced four Palestinian residents from Hebron and Nablus. Surif resident Mohammed Ahmad Adwan was sentenced to nine months suspended and a fine of IS30,000 and Bassam Ahmad Ghanayem to six months suspended and a fine of IS25,000 for possessing illegal publications.

WALL NEAR HEBRON MOSQUE DESTROYED

HEBRON — Israel Radio said that the authorities destroyed a stone wall near the Ibrahimi Mosque after a number of fire-bombs were thrown near it over the past two days.

PLAN TO EXPAND JERUSALEM BOUNDARIES

World Zionist Organisation settlement department head Matityahu Drobless called the Arab expansion around Jerusalem "a cancer." He said that the Arab expansion is choking the city from its northern, eastern and southern entrances. Drobless called for a wide settlement belt around Jerusalem.

RAMALLAH BUSINESS COMPLAINS TO MILITARY

RAMALLAH — The head of the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce, Ibrahim Farr, and members of the council met with the Ramallah military governor. Farr demanded that the Jordanian law regarding income taxes be applied to Ramallah merchants. The Chamber also discussed telephones and money permitted to be brought from outside.

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Transport

The lack of organisation also means that many suburban routes are ignored by money-hungry taxi drivers. Taxi drivers unable to find normal work and working as *services* prefer the major routes with the maximun number of passengers. Although most suburbs are served by intra-urban bus companies — there are nine private bus companies with route concessions — these buses which operate on a purely business basis stop work at 5 or 6:00 pm. With buses stopped in the early evening and taxis refraining from side routes, residents who have no car are forced to stay home or walk long distances.

Buses

Buses, on the other hand, have not had things any easier. The abundance of taxis has meant less passengers. Buses with short routes have been most effected. With the minimum bus tariff decided by the Israeli government, taxis working on their own are able to lure many passengers with a slightly higher fare. Buses make many more stops, partly due to the absence of designated bus stops. It means a much longer ride.

Jerusalem routes to the Mount of Olives, Abu Tor and Azzariyah have reported the most difficulties making ends meet. The problem is further complicated with the competition of Volkswagen vans which travel on these short routes and pick up passengers. Omar Khatib, the owner of the Mount of Olives Bus Company, has made a number of complaints to the authorities. Recently he was asked to sit on the Jerusalem municipality public transport committee, the first time an East Jerusalem resident was invited.

Khatib has complained that the Volkswagen vans, which normally transport workers in the early morning to Israeli factories, often drive in front of the buses, practically stealing passengers. The problem between the bus company and the van driver has often resulted in fist fights. The police, who do give tickets every now and then, have been unable to stop the phenomenon. According to one of the six bus drivers on the Mount of Olives route, " If this problem is not dealt with, we will soon find ourselves without work."

According to Walid Tawil, a driver on the Thori bus line, at least 2000 people ride the company's six buses every morning to Jerusalem and on the return trip in the afternoon. He said that they have no problems with the Israeli government-financed Egged bus company, but buses that work on the Azzariyeh, Beit Hanina and Shufat routes are effected by Egged. Egged buses that travel to Ma'ale Adumim and Neve Yacov settlements do pick up many potential riders of Arab-owned buses. Although most Palestinians prefer not to travel on Egged buses, they are usually forced to in the evening hours since Egged runs until midnight, bypassing Arab neighbourhoods for the various settlements encircling Jerusalem.

Hanna Muqbil, native son of the West Bank, was the latest PLO press official to be assassinated. His murder in Nicosia May 3 brought people into the streets of Taibeh in nationalist demonstration. Sami Aboudi describes the odyssey of Muqbil's life as a journalist, in the following story.

HANNA MUQBIL:

MARTYRED BEFORE HIS TIME

Hanna Muqbil

Even though he had not returned to the West Bank for 16 years, Hanna Muqbil was well-remembered in May 1984. The symbolic funeral held for him at his home village of Taibeh, near Ramallah, turned into a large political demonstration in which Palestinian flags were raised and national slogans were chanted. The large turn-out reflected obvious local pride, and perhaps an underlying gratitude for the achievements of this West Banker whose difficult life 'outside' was dedicated to his people.

Hanna Muqbil's parents, standing in front of their son's portrait following his death/AO photo

Muqbil, who is also known as Abu Tha'er, was a distinguished journalist who helped establish various information-related departments in the PLO. He was assassinated in Cyprus on May 3, most probably because of his position as the general-secretary of the Baghdad-based Arab Journalists' Union. He also owned and ran *al-Sharq*, an independent press office, in Cyprus. Since 1972, when Ghassan Kanafani, the first head of the PLO's Unified Information Department, died in a car bomb in Beirut, six top PLO information men have been targets of assassination. The list included Kamal Naser the first spokesperson of the PLO, ambushed in his Beirut home in 1973, and Majed Abu Sharar, member of Fatah's Central Committee and head of the Unified Information Department, who was killed by a bomb in a Rome hotel in 1981. Several other PLO officials whose jobs were to disseminate information, such as Anis Sayegh, who headed the Palestine Research Centre, and Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the secretariat of the Palestinian Writers and Journalists' Union, were severely wounded by letter bombs, a popular style of attack against intellectuals in the early 1970's.

An Achieving Man

During his 14 years of active involvement in the Palestinian struggle, Muqbil proved to be a brilliant and dedicated information director, as well as a skilled journalist. He was often described as a hard-working, tireless man. Nabil Abu Ja'afar, one of Hanna's closest friends, who now edits the Paris-based *Al-Talia'a al-Arabia* magazine, remembers Muqbil as a "beehive." In a euology published May 14, Abu Ja'far recalled Hanna's active direction of the press campaign organised by the Unified Information Department of the PLO after the assassination of three major PLO officials,Kamal Naser,Kamal Adwan and Abu Yousef Najjar in April 1973. In addition to his service with the Unified Information Department, Muqbil played a leading role in establishing *Filastin al-Thawra*, the official news organ of the PLO. He also became the managing editor of the magazine, before he started his private business.

Later on he was elected deputy general-secretary of the Palestinian Writers and Journalists' Union (PWJU). Noted writer Naji Alloush, a very close friend of Muqbil, was then the general-secretary. In 1978, he was elected to the office of general-secretary of the Arab Journalists' Union.

Personal History

Born in Jerusalem in 1941, Hanna was educated at the College des Freres, one of the leading schools at that time. His family recalls that he showed a keen interest in journalism. "From the time he was nine, he would listen to radio newscasts and write down the reports," his older sister Huda remembered. He studied journalism through a correspondence course with a Cairo community college while still in high school and worked part-time in the Jerusalem-based *al-Manar* newspaper.

On his graduation in 1959, and despite the objections of his father, Hanna claimed his vocation and obtained a full-time job with *Filastin* daily, one of the leading newspapers in the country.

Constrained in his work — the West Bank press was subject to tight Jordanian government control — young Muqbil decided to move to Kuwait, where relative freedom existed and where many Palestinian writers and journalists, including Ghassan Kanafani, lived in exile. Muqbil worked for *al-Hadaf* and *al-Risaleh* newspapers there.

Only three years later, in the mid-1960's, the Muqbil family was deported, after Hanna wrote an article criticising the Kuwaiti government. His sister, Huda, said she no longer remembers the details but she does recall that he learned of the deportation order beforehand and decided to leave on his own. At the airport, Kuwaiti security men handed him the deportation order. He flew to Damascus and then on to Kalandia airport, near Jerusalem. Hanna was turned to *Filastin*, where he remained until shortly after the 1967 war, when the paper was moved to Amman and changed its name to *Al Dustur*. He managed to return to the West Bank two months after the war, where he remained for one year.

Unable to find employment in the West Bank, Hanna left Jerusalem to Jordan where he was rehired by *Al Dustur*. After the 1970 confrontation between the PLO and Jordanian forces, 'Black September,' Hanna left Jordan along with the PLO and again took political refuge, first in Syria and then in Lebanon, where he, along with others, helped rebuild the various PLO institutions.

Abu Tha'er's murder was a great shock to his elderly parents, who first heard the news on BBC Radio. When the family inquired about their son, they were told he had been shot and was suffering from mild wounds. One hour later, they heard that he had died in hospital. The body was buried in Um al-Hiran Cemetery in Amman in a huge funeral attended by Palestinian figures and residents of refugee camps near Amman. When *Al Fajr* asked Hanna's father what he wanted to say to the unknown assassin, he convulsed in tears and was unable to say anything. One could hear through the tears the words of Hanna's friend Nabil Abu Ja'afar: "Hanna Muqbil, O you are a Palestinian rose that was picked before its season."